# CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

FRIDAY ▸ JUNE 5, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 321 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

IBC WORLD NEWS
CH ABC
Certified English Daily

India-Africa partners for vaccine innovation P8

Neighborhood first: INS Airavat docks in Colombo P9

P12 Ratna Kumar Dismisses AA23 Shelving Rumours Indirectly

www.ibcworldnews.com | BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI | cityhilights.news@gmail.com


# Shivakumar proposes twin ministries for public grievances and NRIs

## Citizens' concerns, voter rights and transparency placed at Congress governance forefront

**BENGALURU**

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday announced that the Karnataka government will establish separate ministries for public grievances and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), while directing officials to function transparently, remain free from external pressures and work proactively to address people's concerns.

Addressing senior bureaucrats, police officers and forest officials at Vidhana Soudha, the Chief Minister said the new government is committed to responsive and accountable governance. He instructed all departments to prepare action plans within 15 days and submit reports on pending and proposed development works within 25 days.

Shivakumar also stressed that no citizen should lose voting rights during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Officials have been directed to create awareness, establish help desks and assist eligible voters in completing registration formalities.

The Chief Minister announced that a dedicated Public Grievances Ministry would be created to hear petitions, address public complaints and engage with protest groups seeking government intervention. A separate NRI Ministry will facilitate investments and provide support services for overseas Kannadigas interested in contributing to the state's development.

On governance reforms, Shivakumar directed authorities to collect comprehensive data on the utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds across Karnataka. He said primary education would receive priority in future CSR spending, including the construction and improvement of schools.

The government also plans to strengthen law and order by forming special task forces in every taluk to monitor and curb rowdy activities and criminal elements.

The Chief Minister said the administration's focus would remain on transparent governance, citizen welfare and efficient delivery of public services across the state.

"Our government will not bow to caste, religion, influence or pressure. Officials must work within the framework of law, with transparency and a positive approach to solving people's problems.
**DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister**

**Key Announcements**

- Separate ministry for public grievances
- Separate ministry for NRIs
- Action plans from departments in 15 days
- District development reports in 25 days
- No voter should lose voting rights during SIR
- Taluk-level task forces against rowdy activities

**Employment & Governance**

- Details of vacant posts to be submitted within 15 days
- Plan to fill 56,000 government vacancies
- Private employment exchange proposed
- ₹2,000 cr earmarked for Bengaluru road development works

### CM backs global water innovation network to elevate Bengaluru

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's vision of transforming Bengaluru into a global city received a major push with BWSSB proposing the Bengaluru Global Water Innovation Network (BGWIN), an international platform for water innovation and urban water security. The initiative aims to bring together water utilities, government agencies, universities, research institutions, startups, investors and industry leaders to address challenges linked to water management, climate change and rapid urbanisation. A key component will be a Centre of Excellence and Technology Innovation Hub focusing on artificial intelligence, smart metering, wastewater treatment and water reuse. BWSSB said BGWIN will support research, technology testing, policy development and global collaboration, positioning Bengaluru as a leading hub for sustainable water management.

### Cabinet vacancies remain, says CM on women ministers

D.K. Shivakumar said the absence of women in the newly formed Cabinet should not be seen as a closed chapter, noting that several ministerial vacancies are yet to be filled. Responding to criticism from the BJP and concerns raised by senior Congress leader Margaret Alva, he said, "There are a lot of vacancies. It is not about any one person." He also highlighted the government's women-centric welfare schemes, saying Karnataka has become a model for women's empowerment.

# NFHS-6 exposes BJP's 'absolute incompetence': Kharge

**NEW DELHI**

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the Narendra Modi-led government, alleging that the findings of the sixth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) have exposed the BJP's "absolute incompetence" in addressing healthcare and nutrition challenges across the country.

In a post on X, Kharge claimed the survey data revealed alarming levels of malnutrition and anaemia among women and children. He said one in five children suffers from acute malnutrition, one-third are underweight, and over 84 per cent of children aged between six and 23 months do not receive adequate nutrition. Kharge alleged that the BJP government deliberately concealed data that highlighted shortcomings in healthcare and nutrition programmes.

"The Modi government has betrayed India's women and children on healthcare and nutrition and attempted to hide data that exposes its failures," Kharge said.

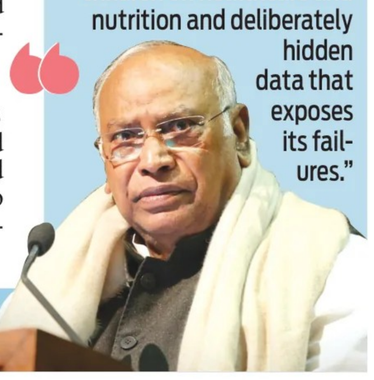
**NFHS-6 Coverage**

- 6.79 lakh households surveyed
- 715 districts covered
- Conducted during 2023-24

**KEY CONCERNS Highlighted by Kharge**

- 1 in 5 children acutely malnourished
- 1 in 3 children underweight
- 84% children lack adequate nutrition
- 57% women anaemic
- 1 in 5 women undernourished

"The Modi government has betrayed India's women and children on healthcare and nutrition and deliberately hidden data that exposes its failures."



Mallikarjun Kharge
AICC President

# Speaker's chair beckons H.K. Patil: Cong veteran may get key Constitutional role

**SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM,** MYSURU

Veteran Congress leader and former minister H.K. Patil is emerging as the frontrunner for the coveted post of Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly following the resignation of U.T. Khader, who has joined the Cabinet of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Highly placed Congress sources indicated that the party's national leadership is actively persuading the seasoned North Karnataka leader to accept the constitutional responsibility for the next 24 months. As part of an internal political understanding, Patil is reportedly being assured of a significant role thereafter. However, the senior leader is yet to give his consent and is understood to have sought time before taking a final call.

The Speaker's post, once considered a position of immense prestige, has in recent years found few willing takers. The role demands strict neutrality, distancing its occupant from active political engagement and partisan activities. This has often discouraged ambitious politicians who prefer the rough-and-tumble of electoral politics.

Sources say this very factor prevented Patil's inclusion in the newly-formed Shivakumar Cabinet. Known for his administrative experience and political acumen, Patil has long been regarded as one of the Congress party's most dependable leaders. Yet, the Speaker's chair may now be his next destination.

Interestingly, a similar formula was believed to have been worked out for U.T. Khader after the Congress stormed to power in the 2023 Assembly elections. Keen on a ministerial berth under the Muslim and Coastal Karnataka quota, Khader was persuaded to serve as Speaker with an assurance that he would eventually be accommodated in the Cabinet. After steering the Assembly smoothly for nearly three years and earning praise for his conduct, Khader has now made way for a successor.

# Rahul, Siddaramaiah running govt; DKS lacks freedom: Ashoka

**BENGALURU:** Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the newly formed Karnataka government headed by D. K. Shivakumar, alleging that the administration would function under the "remote control" of Rahul Gandhi and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Ashoka claimed the change in leadership was merely cosmetic and compared it to "an old movie with a new poster." He said only the nameplate at the Chief Minister's office had changed while public grievances remained unresolved. Ashoka alleged that issues such as farmer suicides, corruption, pothole-ridden roads, microfinance-related distress, and deaths caused by administrative negligence continue to plague the state.

"The people asked for good governance, but Congress has only changed the chairs. Karnataka deserves transparency and accountability."
**R Ashoka, Opposition Leader**

He also criticized the large number of political cut-outs erected in Bengaluru despite the Chief Minister's appeal against them, saying it showed that Shivakumar's directives were not being followed. Questioning the composition of the new Cabinet, Ashoka said no woman had been inducted despite Congress projecting itself as a supporter of women's rights.

**HOSPITAL FIRE TRAGEDY**

# 5 killed in ICU fire at pvt hospital in Bihar

**MUZAFFARPUR**

At least five people lost their lives and several others were injured after a massive fire broke out in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a private hospital in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district early Thursday morning, officials said.

The incident occurred at Prasad Hospital in the Brahmpura area of Muzaffarpur town. According to authorities, the blaze erupted around 3:55 a.m. and spread rapidly through the ICU, filling the ward with dense smoke and making rescue operations difficult.

Muzaffarpur Municipal Commissioner Rituraj Singh confirmed five fatalities and said several injured patients were undergoing treatment at different hospitals. Earlier, District Magistrate Subrat Kumar Sen stated that around 13 to 15 patients were admitted in the ICU at the time of the incident and were later shifted to nearby medical facilities by their families and rescue teams.

Fire department personnel rushed to the spot soon after receiving the alert and managed to evacuate nearly 20 patients. Fire officer Ram Nivas Pandey said the thick smoke inside the ICU complicated rescue efforts, but firefighters successfully rescued between 15 and 20 patients from the affected ward.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the fire may have been caused by a short circuit, although officials said the exact cause would be determined after a detailed inquiry. Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary described the incident as "extremely tragic" and announced an ex gratia payment of ₹4 lakh for the families of each deceased victim.

He also directed authorities to ensure proper treatment for the injured. Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary said a thorough investigation was underway and assured that appropriate action would be taken based on the findings.


Government of Karnataka
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ KARNATAKA

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister

World Environment Day – 2026

Inspired by Nature, for Climate, for our Future

Date: Friday, 05.06.2026, Time: 10.00 A.M.
Venue: Tejaswi Auditorium, Parisara Bhavana, Head Office, Bengaluru

★★★

Plant more trees
Reduce the carbon footprint
Use public transport as much as possible
Clean water is precious. Use water judiciously.
Say no to single-use plastic items
Scientifically segregate and dispose of household waste.

Remember: We have only one Earth, let's protect it from the scourge of pollution.

Sri D.K. Shivakumar, Hon'ble Chief Minister and Sri P.M. Narendraswamy, President, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board at the departmental programme.

"Protecting the natural environment is the fundamental constitutional duty of every citizen."

Issued in Public Interest by
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
Parisara Bhavan, 1 to 5th Floor, No. 49, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001,
Ph: 080 – 25581383, 25589112, Fax : 080 – 25586321, Website: ho@kspcb.gov.in

## QUICK READ

### 6 advocates to be elevated as K'taka HC Judges

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU
The Supreme Court collegium has approved the proposal for appointment of six advocates, Raghavendra Seetharam Srivatsa, Hema Kulkarni, Subramanya Rangarao, Thadagavadi Prakash Vivekananda, Bakkeswara Pramod and Hombe Gowda Shanthi Bhushan as Judges of Karnataka High Court.

### BECC to issue notices over compound wall violations

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU
Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) directed officials to identify residential and commercial buildings with compound walls exceeding the permissible height prescribed under National Building Code (NBC) and issue notices to owners for compliance.BECC Commissioner DS Ramesh issued the directive during a review meeting on the progress of development and engineering works across corporation limits. Officials were told to conduct inspections and initiate action against violations as part of broader efforts to improve public safety and urban infrastructure management.
The Commissioner ordered immediate identification of dilapidated and structurally unsafe buildings that pose a threat to public life and property. Officials have been asked to take action, including demolition wherever required, and submit weekly progress reports.

### Man films woman while bathing in apartment

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU
A 28-year-old woman staying in an apartment alleged that an unidentified man secretly recorded her while she was bathing in her bathroom on May 31. The Green Glen Layout resident said the incident occurred around 8.15pm when she was taking bath. She was shocked to notice a mobile phone near the bathroom window being used to record the video. She told police the phone was seagreen in colour and featured a dual-camera setup. She said the suspect was wearing a grey T-shirt. Realising she was being filmed, the woman raised the alarm. The accused, however, fled the spot before he was identified. A case has been registered under Section 66E of Information Technology Act (punishment for violation of privacy) and Section 77 (voyeurism) of BNS.A senior police officer said CCTV cameras of the building and surrounding areas are being verified to ascertain clues.

# Healthcare needs docs who Bridge med-tech gap: Experts

As AI becomes increasingly embedded in healthcare, experts call for a new gen of doctors who can bridge worlds of med, tech, and research; They need to speak the language of science & innovation.

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Doctors must be able to communicate healthcare challenges effectively to engineers and researchers. They need to speak the language of science and innovation.

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly embedded in healthcare, experts are calling for a new generation of doctors who can bridge the worlds of medicine, technology and research. They caution that trust among doctors and patients will determine the success of AI adoption.

Speaking at the 15th edition of the Lifesciences and Healthcare Innovation Forum (LHIF), organised by the Nasscom Centre of Excellence (CoE) for IoT and AI, healthcare leaders said, AI is already transforming areas ranging from diagnosis and clinical documentation to drug discovery. However, they stressed that technology should support doctors rather than replace them.

Highlighting the need for clinician-scientists, Dr Uma Nambiar, IISc Medical School Foundation CEO, said there are significant gaps in the healthcare innovation ecosystem that require professionals who understand both medicine and technology. According to her, the upcoming hospital and medical school at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) aims to address this challenge by training physician-scientists and clinician-scientists through interdisciplinary programmes.

Clinician-scientists can bridge the gap between laboratory innovation and patient care, she said. Dr Nambiar also argued that engineers and technology developers should be viewed as part of the healthcare ecosystem because their work directly affects patient outcomes. If a medical device fails, if an imaging system produces inaccurate results, or if an AI algorithm makes a mistake, patient outcomes are affected, she said.

Dr Sujoy Kar, Chief Medical Information officer and Vice-President at Apollo Hospitals, said healthcare organisations must focus on building trust at every stage of AI implementation. In healthcare AI, we must build a trust pipeline that extends from algorithms to physicians and from physicians to patients. If that trust pipeline is weak at any point, the solution will not succeed, he said.

Sanjeev Malhotra, CEO of Nasscom CoE, said public trust in AI-powered healthcare solutions would depend largely on their accuracy and endorsements by trusted institutions. Trust ultimately comes from accuracy. If a system consistently delivers reliable results, people will continue to use it. Over time, trust is built when users repeatedly see accurate outcomes, he said. Stakeholders at the forum also stressed the need for home-grown AI solutions built on India-specific datasets, while noting that several Indian startups are already developing products that can compete with global standards.

## Woman duped of Rs 41L in stock market scam

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

A woman was duped of Rs 41 lakh by promising high returns if she invested in the stock market.

A case has been registered against the cyber fraudsters at the Whitefield Cyber Crime Police Station in this regard.

Police from the Cyber Crime Station said that a case has been registered under the IT Act based on a complaint filed by a 30-year-old woman from Marathhalli and the investigation is ongoing.

The cyber fraudsters, who called the woman from three separate mobile numbers, had convinced her that she would get high profits if she invested in the stock market. Later, they added her to a WhatsApp group and sent her a link. After that, the complainant clicked on the link and registered. Initially, the woman invested Rs 30,000 through the app. As the fraudsters again convinced her to invest more money, she invested Rs 41 lakh from three accounts in different banks, sources said.

## NIMHANS to study music effects on brain, to make Ilaiyaraaja patron

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) announced the setting up of a National Centre for Music, Brain, Mind and Health under the patronage of music composer and Padma Vibhushan awardee Ilaiyaraaja.

The proposed centre, which will be set up in collaboration with Mercuri Foundation, aims to become India's first interdisciplinary national facility dedicated to studying the intersection of music, neuroscience, mental health, cognition, rehabilitation and technology.

As per NIMHANS, the initiative seeks to advance research, clinical innovation, education and public engagement in areas related to music and human wellbeing. The centre will focus on understanding how music influences the brain, cognition, emotions and overall health, while developing evidence-based approaches that can be applied in healthcare and community settings.

It aims to bridge traditional wisdom, artistic excellence and modern neuroscience to develop evidence-based approaches that can benefit individuals and communities alike. The patronage of Ilaiyaraaja adds a profound cultural and artistic dimension to the initiative, said NIMHANS. Since 2009, research has been on into how music interacts with the brain, cognition, emotion and mental health at NIMHANS.

## Hold local body polls soon: Ex-MP

**The state capital, Bengaluru, has been deprived of Central financial assistance worth around Rs 10,000 crores due to delay in elections to GBA'.**

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Fifth State Finance Commission chairman and former MP C Narayanaswamy has urged the state government to hold the pending local body elections as soon as possible.

He asserted that the new Chief Minister needs to pay attention to this issue in order to strengthen democracy and receive the necessary funds from the central government.

He was speaking at an interaction program organized by the Karnataka branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration in joint collaboration with Dr. Manmohan Singh Bangalore City University at the new academic wing on the premises of Central College.

Delivering a keynote address on the topic 'Distribution of Finance to Local Bodies, Report of the 5th Karnataka State Finance Commission', he explained that huge amounts of funds were unavailable due to the failure to hold elections on time.

Narayanaswamy opined that the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution, which were implemented in 1993, ushered in a new era of empowerment of local bodies and decentralization of power.

He lamented that due to failure to comply with the conditions of the Central Finance Commission, financial assistance was stopped, which led to a financial setback for the development work of local bodies in the state and stunted progress.

Presiding over the discussion, retired Chief Secretary and IIPA Karnataka Branch President TM Vijaya Bhaskar analyzed that the southern states that have effectively implemented the policy of decentralization have achieved greater development.

State Finance Commission member M Sanaullah, Senior Professors Dr K Gayathri and Dr N Shivanna shed light on various aspects of the report.

Decentralized Planning and Development Commission Chairman DR Patil, Registrar A Naveen Joseph, IIPA Secretary Dr D Jeevan Kumar, Kala Nikaya Dean Prof Jyothi Venkatesh, Dr M Malini were present.Speaking at the interaction, retired Additional Chief Secretary LK Ateeq explained that the state government is spending about one lakh crore rupees annually on guarantee schemes and various subsidies and pension schemes.

As a result, he said, Karnataka has risen to the top in the country in terms of per capita income, and opined that local bodies can mobilize more revenue resources through property tax collection.

## Residents spend from pockets to keep Jalahalli Road user-friendly

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

Residents of a large apartment complex in Jalahalli East have been pooling in money every year to keep a 100-metre stretch of road usable during monsoon. Reason: The city corporation or elected representatives haven't been able to provide a lasting solution.

Residents of Shriram Sameeksha apartment complex, which has over 1,000 homes, said they spend around Rs 80,000 annually to lay jelly stones on the stretch connecting Gangamma Gudi Police Station Road and Kuvempunagar.

According to residents, repeated appeals to civic authorities and elected representatives across party lines failed to resolve the issue. We gave a written representation and authorities also visited the spot. But there has been no solution, said Unni Krishnan Menon, a retired navy veteran and resident of the apartment complex.

Since the road is undeveloped, the surrounding space has become a dumpyard. There is another menace of drug addicts using the stretch for their activities, said resident Vivek Balaji. Residents said an ongoing land litigation has prevented government agencies from taking up permanent development works.

The issue has also affected the locality's access to drinking water connections and BMTC bus services.

The stretch has been used as a connecting road for over 10 years now, but it remains unsafe for commuters. There have been many incidents of people falling and getting injured here. Our request is to make the road safe at least till the legal issues are resolved, said Natesh Muthanna, Secretary of Shriram Sameeksha Apartment Owners' Association. Bengaluru North City Corporation's Executive Engineer Nagappa Kamati said several attempts were made by former corporators to get clearance by convincing the title holder of the land so that a road could be developed. We can asphalt the stretch once we get clearance, he added.

## MAN KNOCKED DOWN BY SPEEDING BIKE FIGHTS FOR RS 6.7L COMPENSATION

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

After being knocked down by a speeding motorcycle while walking home and sustaining grievous injury and loss of pay, a daily wage labourer fought a lengthy legal battle for securing compensation.

The saga began on May 10, 2023, when Shiva Kumar, a 49-year-old resident of Nelamangala taluk, was walking along Shivagange-Kudur Road at around 6.20 pm. The rider of the motorcycle, owned by Gangamma of Koratagere taluk, Tumakuru district, came at high speed in a rash and negligent manner and dashed against him.

Kumar fell to the ground and sustained grievous injuries, displaced fractures to his left ankle and multiple fractures to the metatarsal bones of his right foot.Kumar was immediately rushed to the district general hospital, Tumakuru.

He was discharged with advice for surgery and subsequently admitted to Sridevi Medical College Hospital, Tumakuru, on May 21, where he underwent internal fixation for the left ankle fracture. The right foot fractures were treated conservatively with plaster application.He was discharged on May 30 after a 10-day stay, with advice for regular follow-up treatment and bed rest.

Dobbaspet police registered a case against the motorcycle's rider.Kumar filed a petition before Motor Accident Claims Tribunal-3, seeking Rs 30 lakh in compensation, alleging that on account of the accidental injuries, he was unable to work and had incurred huge expenses towards medical treatment.

Prior to the accident, he claimed he was healthy, earning Rs 22,000 per month as a labourer. But the insurer, Chola MS General Insurance Company Ltd, contested the claim, stating the vehicle lacked a valid fitness certificate as on the date of the accident and that the compensation sought was highly exorbitant. After hearing both sides, the tribunal examined witnesses, including a hospital records officer and the doctor who assessed Kumar's disability at 22%. Since the doctor had not treated him or reviewed follow-up records, functional disability was fixed at 20%.

The insurer's manager admitted the vehicle was insured and the rider licensed, weakening its defence and leading the tribunal to reject alleged policy violations. Since Kumar could not produce documentary proof of his income, the tribunal applied a notional income of Rs 16,000 per month.

To this were added Rs 32,000 for loss of income during the two-month recovery period, Rs 14,421 towards proven medical bills, and Rs 30,000 each towards pain and suffering, attendant and conveyance charges, loss of future amenities, and future medical expenses including a recommended implant removal surgery.

The tribunal bench of headed by BS Honnaswamy, VII Additional SCJ and ACJM, Member MACT-3 on May 2, directed the insurance company to pay a total compensation of Rs 6.7 lakh with interest at 6 percent per annum from the date of petition till realization, excluding the Rs 30,000 granted towards future medical expenses.

## Man cheated of Rs 7 lakh in sim-swap racket

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

A suspected sim-swap fraud has left a 27-year-old man poorer by nearly Rs 7.2 lakh after cybercriminals allegedly ported his mobile number to another network without his knowledge, gained access to his banking credentials and siphoned off money from multiple accounts.

As per a complaint filed by Kamlesh Kumar of BTM Layout II Stage and a native of Bihar, he was using mobile number 8971923161 for the past 10 years. On May 25, he suddenly found his number was deactivated. When he visited an Airtel store the following day, he was reportedly informed the number had been ported to Jio network.

Kumar told police this was done without his authorisation. Enquiries at a Jio store reportedly revealed the sim card ownership was transferred to a person, identified as Shahbach Ansari, whom Kamlesh claimed he didn't know. Kumar subsequently filed a lost report at MICO Layout police station on May 27.

**SETBACK FOR KIADB**

## *'KIADB Act not intended to snatch poor farmers' land'*

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

The High Court has quashed the land acquisition process undertaken by the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIDB) for multi-level car parking and other facilities near the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) in Madanayakanahalli village in Bengaluru North taluk, stating that the KIADB Act is not intended to snatch land from poor farmers for the expansion of business by private companies.

This order marks a victory for farmers, who have been fighting a legal battle for their land for the past 14 years.

A bench of Justice DK Singh and Justice TM Nadaf passed this order while hearing the petitions filed by farmers Mukesh Kumar and others challenging the order of a single-judge bench upholding the final notification issued by KIADB for the land acquisition process. It also ordered that the order passed by the single-judge bench in this regard be quashed.

The bench, which explained the land acquisition process under the KIADB Act, said that as per Section 29, compensation has to be paid. Only if all these steps are taken, the acquisition process will be completed. However, even after 14 years have passed since the issuance of the final notification, no compensation has been announced to the land owners. And even though no compensation has been deposited or paid, and there is no stay order, the failure to announce compensation has led to the cancellation of the land acquisition process.

Further, the basic purpose of the KIDB Act is to systematically develop industrial areas in the state. For this, land is identified, acquired and necessary infrastructure is provided for. However, no provision has been made for any specific private institution to snatch the land of poor farmers for the expansion of the business of a profitable company. Even if land is acquired by private companies, it cannot be considered for public purpose, the bench said.

The creation of industrial estate is a public purpose. However, acquisition of land for profit-making unit is not within the purview of the KIADB Act. This exercise of power would be a statutory and constitutional fraud committed by the state authorities, the bench said.

## Robber attacks delivery agent, flees with cash, phone

**CH NEWS,** BENGALURU

A food delivery agent was allegedly assaulted while trying to stop an intruder, who entered his rented house and fled with cash and a mobile phone.

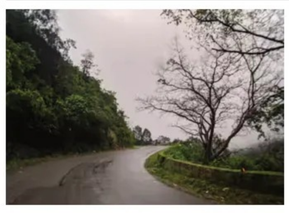
Shyamal, a resident of 5th Cross, Anepalya, and a native of West Bengal, said in his complaint that he and his roommate Nitai Das returned home late at night after work. Around 1.35 am, a miscreant sneaked into their second-floor residence and latched the bathroom door from outside after learning that someone was inside.

The miscreant then entered the bedroom and allegedly stole a mobile phone belonging to Das, Rs 2,750 in cash from Shyamal's trouser pocket, and his bike key.

Realising that the intruder was attempting to flee, Shyamal confronted him and grabbed his legs.

However, the miscreant struck him on the head with an object and fled the house with the valuables, Shyamal told police.

QUICK READ



### Family survive crash at Charmadi Ghat accident

**Chikkamagaluru**
In a tragic road incident in Charmadi Ghat, in Chikkamagaluru district, a couple and their child narrowly escaped death after their scooter was hit by a speeding car near Sri Annappa Swamy Temple. The car, travelling from Kottigehara towards Mangaluru, reportedly lost control before colliding with the scooter coming from the opposite direction. The impact threw all three riders onto the road, causing injuries to the child while the parents sustained minor injuries. The car later veered off the road and fell into a roadside canal. Locals expressed anger over reckless driving in the ghat stretch, and police have registered a case and begun investigation. Further police action is underway now.

### Couple rescued after falling into deep well incident

**Malpe**
In an incident in Malpe near Kemmannu Government PU College, a couple was rescued after accidentally falling into a well, with the woman left in critical condition. The victims, identified as Gopalakrishna (65) and Shyamala (60), residents of Kemmannu, were pulled out after a dramatic rescue operation. Reports say Shyamala slipped and fell into the well, and her husband immediately jumped in to save her. Locals, along with Eshwar Malpe and fire brigade personnel, rushed to the spot and rescued both using ropes. The couple was then shifted to Manipal Hospital for treatment, where Shyamala's condition remains critical. Police from Malpe have registered a case and are investigating the circumstances of the accident and rescue response at the scene.

### Udupi invites applications for hostel admissions

**Udupi**
The Backward Classes Welfare Department in Udupi has invited online applications for admission to post-matric hostels for the current academic year. Students belonging to categories 1, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other eligible groups who are studying PUC-equivalent courses, diplomas, or ITI programs can apply. The hostels are operated across all districts of Karnataka and provide accommodation for both boys and girls. According to the department notification, the last date to submit applications is June 15. Interested students must apply online within the deadline to be considered for admission. For assistance or queries, applicants can contact the helpline number provided in the official notice. The initiative aims to support students from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds by ensuring access to safe and affordable residential facilities during their studies.

# Mangaluru tackles monsoon flooding at key spots

Mangaluru is taking preventive measures to address recurring monsoon waterlogging at Pumpwell Junction and Padil underpass areas.

**MANGALURU**

With the onset of the rainy season, the problem of artificial flooding at key junctions in Mangaluru city has once again come into focus, prompting fresh intervention from the district administration.

Areas such as Pumpwell Junction and the Padil Railway Underpass have long been prone to severe waterlogging during heavy rainfall, causing major traffic disruptions and inconvenience to commuters. Motorists are often forced to navigate submerged roads, with water remaining stagnant for hours during peak monsoon spells.

This year, authorities have initiated a series of preventive measures aimed at reducing

flooding in these critical locations. At Pumpwell Junction, work has begun to raise sections of the service road beneath the flyover. Officials said one side of the work has already been completed and opened to traffic, while remaining construction is progressing rapidly.

In addition, improvements are being made to the drainage system to ensure quicker discharge of rainwater. The capacity of existing stormwater channels is being expanded so that runoff from surrounding roads can be efficiently diverted and prevented from accumulating on the carriageway. New drainage outlets are also being developed in nearby areas to improve water flow management.

At the Padil Railway Underpass, which serves as an important link connecting Ullal, Talapady and parts of Kerala, a pumping system is being installed in coordination with the railway authorities. The system is designed to rapidly remove accumulated rainwater from the underpass during heavy downpours, thereby preventing prolonged water stagnation.

Officials said that the pumping mechanism is expected to significantly reduce traffic disruptions and improve road safety in the area during monsoon conditions. Previously, commuters often had to take alternative routes when the underpass became impassable due to flooding.

The district administration expressed hope that these combined measures will offer long-term relief from recurring "artificial flood" situations. However, the effectiveness of the interventions will be fully tested during the upcoming monsoon season, when rainfall intensity is expected to peak across coastal Karnataka.

# Shivamogga to hold air raid mock drill exercise

**Shivamogga will conduct an air raid mock drill on June 5 to test emergency preparedness and raise public awareness about safety measures.**

**CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA**

A city-wide air raid mock drill will be conducted in Shivamogga on June 5 (today) at 5 pm as part of national preparedness efforts to strengthen civil defence and emergency response systems, officials said on Thursday.

The exercise is being organised to create public awareness about safety measures during potential air raids and to assess the readiness of various government departments in handling emergency situations. Authorities have appealed to the public not to panic, clarifying that the drill is only a training and preparedness activity.

According to Additional Deputy Commissioner Abhishek V and Additional Superintendent of Police Kariappa, the mock drill will be held at Nehru Stadium and other designated locations in the city. It is being conducted in line with instructions from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for nationwide civil defence preparedness activities in 2026.

The drill aims to simulate emergency conditions such as sudden air raids or disaster situations and test how quickly civilians can be moved to safe locations. It will also evaluate the efficiency of coordination among departments in providing immediate medical assistance to the injured and carrying out rescue operations.

Multiple agencies including the District Disaster Management Authority, police department, fire and emergency services, Home Guards, Civil Defence volunteers, NCC, municipal authorities, health department, and KSRTC will participate in the exercise. Their coordinated response will be closely monitored during the simulation.

A two-minute warning siren will be sounded to indicate the onset of a simulated air raid scenario. Officials have urged residents not to be alarmed upon hearing the siren, stressing that it is part of the training process designed to improve public confidence and preparedness.

During the exercise, fire tenders, police vehicles, and ambulances will be deployed. The drill will include evacuation of civilians, search and rescue operations, and transportation of injured persons to hospitals for first aid and treatment.

Authorities stated that the mock drill will also be recorded using drone surveillance to evaluate performance and coordination. They reiterated that the exercise is purely precautionary and encouraged citizens to observe and cooperate without fear.

*Chikkamagaluru officials clarified that adequate fertiliser stocks are available and urged farmers not to believe rumours.*

# Chikkamagaluru denies fertiliser shortage rumours

**CHIKKAMAGALURU**

Farmers in Chikkamagaluru district have been urged not to believe rumours regarding a shortage of fertilisers, as officials confirmed that adequate stock is available across the region.

According to Joint Director of Agriculture Tirumalesh, the sowing area for crops such as moong, urad and lentils has declined this year due to poor pre-monsoon rainfall compared to the previous season. However, he clarified that there has been no disruption in the supply of seeds and fertilisers.

Officials stated that sufficient stock has been maintained across Farmer Sampark Kendras in the district. By the end of March, the district had a buffer stock of around 57,000 metric tonnes. Despite demand being lower than expected in April and May, about 35,000 metric tonnes of fertilisers were supplied during April, May and June.

Out of a total availability of approximately 92,000 metric tonnes, nearly 32,000 metric tonnes have already been distributed to farmers. At present, around 55,000 metric tonnes of urea, DAP and complex fertilisers are available at dealer outlets, cooperative societies, federations and KSSC centres across the district.

The official said that panic

buying by farmers has been triggered due to misinformation, leading to the perception of shortage. He clarified that the government has introduced a "Urea Distribution App" to ensure transparent distribution. Fertiliser allocation is being regulated based on farmers' land details entered through their FID numbers.

He added that some rumours have arisen because dealers are informing farmers about the new distribution rules, which has been misinterpreted as shortage in supply. Authorities have taken action under the Essential Supplies Act and Fertilizer Control Act against those spreading misinformation, and the matter has been handed over to the police for investigation.

Officials reiterated that there is no shortage of fertilisers in the district and assured farmers that supplies will continue smoothly throughout the cropping season. They also appealed for calm and cooperation to ensure fair and regulated distribution of agricultural inputs.

# Research solves social problems, says Dr. Sunita

**MANGALURU**

Scientific research can play a crucial role in solving many of the problems faced by society, said Sunita Saldana during an academic programme held at Yenepoya University.

Addressing students and faculty, she emphasized that research should not be limited to academic publications or classroom learning but must directly contribute to addressing real-world challenges. She said that issues such as healthcare gaps, educational inequality, environmental degradation, and social disparities can be effectively tackled through focused and application-oriented research.

Dr. Saldana highlighted that research becomes more impactful when it is designed with community needs in mind. She stressed the importance of understanding local problems and developing solutions that are practical, sustainable, and accessible to people at the grassroots level.

She also noted that institu-

tions like Yenepoya University are actively encouraging students and researchers to engage in socially relevant studies. According to her, such initiatives help bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, ensuring that academic work benefits society at large.

She further pointed out that the use of modern technology in research can significantly speed up problem-solving processes. Data-driven approaches, digital tools, and interdisciplinary collaboration, she said, are essential in today's rapidly changing world.

Encouraging young researchers, she advised them to move beyond textbooks and actively interact with communities to understand their challenges. She said that meaningful research emerges only when scholars observe real-life situations and work closely with people.

Other faculty members present at the event also echoed similar views, stating that innovation and research are key drivers of national development. They emphasized the need for stronger collaboration between disciplines to address complex societal issues.

The programme concluded with students engaging in discussions on research methodologies and innovation. Organizers said the event successfully inspired participants to pursue research with a stronger sense of social responsibility and purpose.

# Udupi Gram Panchayats win National Sustainability Awards

**UDUPI**

Five gram panchayats from Karnataka's Udupi district have been honoured under the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sustainable Development Awards for their performance in key development sectors.

Mudradi gram panchayat in Hebri taluk received the Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihood Panchayat Award along with a cash prize of Rs 1 crore. The recognition highlights its efforts in improving rural livelihoods and implementing welfare-oriented development initiatives.

Madamakki gram panchayat, also in Hebri taluk, was awarded for its Sustainable Drinking Water Scheme and received Rs 75 lakh. The award recognises improvements in water supply systems and long-term water sustainability measures in the region.

In Kundapur taluk, Vandse

gram panchayat was honoured with the Health Services Award and received Rs 75 lakh for strengthening rural healthcare delivery and improving access to essential medical services for residents.

Hakladi gram panchayat received the Social Justice and Social Security Panchayat Award with a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh. The recognition reflects its work in promoting inclusive governance and welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of society.

Sanoor gram panchayat in Karkala taluk was awarded the Infrastructure Development Award and received Rs 25 lakh for its progress in building and upgrading essential rural infrastructure.

The awards were presented by Union Panchayati Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh in the presence of other senior officials. District and taluk-level representatives attended the ceremony to receive the honours on behalf of their respective gram panchayats.

Officials said the recognition highlights the growing emphasis on sustainable development goals at the grassroots level and showcases Udupi district's strong performance in implementing central and state rural development programmes.

FLOOD RISK MAPPING

# *Chikkamagaluru identifies 164 rain vulnerable areas*

**CHIKKAMAGALURU**

The district administration has identified 164 vulnerable locations across Chikkamagaluru district ahead of the monsoon season, as pre-monsoon rainfall has been below normal this year, officials said.

District Collector Bhanwar Singh Meena stated that precautionary measures have already been initiated following the onset of the rainy season. He added that the administration is focusing on disaster preparedness and risk reduction in identified sensitive areas.

According to officials, the vulnerable zones have been mapped across all taluks, including Mudigere, Narsimhrajapura, Chikkamagaluru, Koppa, Tarikere, Sringeri and Kalasa. Mudigere taluk accounts for 17 such locations, while Narsimhrajapura has 12, Chikkamagaluru 11, Koppa 7, Tarikere 1, Sringeri 9 and Kalasa 17.

Authorities have also set up designated care centres in these regions and deployed emergency response equipment. This includes 11 motorised boats, life jackets, ropes

and other rescue materials to handle possible flood and landslide situations during heavy rains.

The administration reviewed rainfall data from March 1 to May 31, noting that pre-monsoon rainfall has been uneven across the district. While some areas like Kalasa and Sringeri recorded higher rainfall, others such as Tarikere received significantly lower precipitation compared to the district average.

Officials said that control rooms have been activated at the district and taluk levels to respond to emergency situations. Dedicated helplines have been established for public assistance, including the district collector office control room, police department, and electricity supply agency.

The administration has urged residents in vulnerable regions to remain alert and follow safety advisories during heavy rainfall. Disaster response teams from the police, fire and emergency services, and local administration have been kept on standby.

Officials present at the review meeting included senior representatives from agriculture, horticulture, police and district panchayat departments, who discussed coordinated response strategies for the upcoming monsoon season.

The district administration emphasized that preparedness measures are being strengthened to minimise risk to life and property during adverse weather conditions.

## QUICK READ

### Congress workers celebrate leadership oath victory event

**CH NEWS,** Hunsur Congress workers and supporters celebrated at Hunsur city bus stand after D. K. Shivakumar became Chief Minister and G. Parameshwara became Deputy Chief Minister. Almond milk was distributed to the public, and about 20,000 laddus were shared. Firecrackers were burst and victory slogans were raised by supporters during the event. Former MLA H. P. Manjunath said the state will move towards development under the new leadership. He highlighted strengthening guarantee schemes, free bus passes for students, jobs for unemployed youth, and formation of 10,000 Bharat Jodo youth organisations.

### Town Panchayat opens housing applications under PMAY

**CH NEWS,** Gadag The Town Panchayat has invited applications for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 to support homeless and siteless families in Mulgund area. The Town Panchayat Office Mulgund has asked eligible homeless and siteless families across all wards to apply through the Unified Web Portal http://pmay.urban.gov.in for housing benefits under the Central Government scheme. The last date for submission of applications is June 30. For more information applicants can contact the Housing Department branch of the Mulgund Town Pancha yat office. Residents are urged to apply soon.

### Scheduled power cut announced in Ginigera substation

**CH NEWS,** Koppal Due to quarterly emergency maintenance work at Ginigera 110/33/11 KV power substation under GESCOM Munirabad sub-division, electricity supply will be disrupted on June 6 from 10 am to 4 pm, and consumers are requested to cooperate. Power will be affected in Ginigera and nearby villages including Kanakapura, Hire Baganal, Kutuganahalli, Allahnagar, Gabbur and Bheemanur. Several feeder and industrial lines such as NJY, SRC Industrial and Coca Cola feeders will also be impacted. Public is advised to avoid electrical repair work and cooperate with authorities during the shutdown period.

# Anjaneya welcomes Hariprasad appointment as KPCC President

Anjaneya praised Hariprasad as a dedicated Congress leader who held AICC roles across states

**CHITRADURGA**

The election of senior Congress leader B K Hariprasad as Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president has created fresh political discussion across the state. Former minister H Anjaneya said the decision has brought new energy among party workers and strengthened confidence in the organisation.

Anjaneya said Hariprasad is a committed Congress leader who has served the party at state and national levels for many years. He said Hariprasad played important roles in Youth Congress organisation, served as AICC secretary and general secretary, and handled responsibilities in several states with dedication and discipline.

He added that Hariprasad has also served as Rajya Sabha member and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, gaining wide administrative experience. According to him, Hariprasad has always followed party ideology and worked without compromising Congress values even in difficult political situations.

He said Hariprasad's leadership will strengthen the party organisation from booth level to state level and help bring unity among all groups. He expressed confidence that experienced leadership will guide the party to better coordination and stronger grassroots structure across Karnataka.

He further said that loyal party workers who have served for years will now get more opportunities in boards, corporations and government institutions. He said this will increase motivation among grassroots workers and strengthen the party ahead of upcoming elections.

Anjaneya noted that recent political developments in Karnataka have drawn attention across the country. He said Hariprasad's appointment has given fresh direction to the Congress party and prepared it for the 2028 Assembly elections with renewed confidence and organisational strength.

Party leaders said the appointment of B K Hariprasad as KPCC president has created unity and hope among Congress workers at all levels. They said his experience will help in resolving internal differences and improving coordination between senior and junior leaders. Workers at the grassroots level are expecting better recognition and support in future political and organisational responsibilities. Leaders also said the party will focus on strengthening booth level committees and expanding public outreach programmes across Karnataka.

## Suresh Itnal advises NPK ratio for soil health

**KOPPAL**

Deputy Commissioner Dr Suresh B Itnal urged farmers to use balanced compound fertilizers instead of relying only on urea and DAP during a press meet at the District Collector office hall.

He said soil needs nutrients through organic manure green manure cow dung vermicompost biofertilizers and chemical fertilizers in balanced form and recommended NPK ratio of 4 2 1 instead of current 5 3 1 and advised use of compound fertilizers like 15 15 15 17 17 17 and 19 19 19 and potash for better crop strength.

This year the district received higher rainfall of 112.50 mm compared to normal 87 mm and all seven taluks got good green rainfall and farmers have started land preparation in 3.49 lakh hectares and plan sowing maize 1.22 lakh hectares sajje 0.32 lakh hectares oil seeds 0.44 lakh hectares and pulses 0.40 lakh hectares.

Due to Middle East crisis fertilizer raw material imports are affected causing shortage in urea and DAP supply for monsoon 2026 and the state received 1.71 lakh MT urea and 0.53 lakh MT DAP so far with expected shortage of 0.65 lakh MT urea and 1.08 lakh MT DAP.

He warned farmers not to stock excess fertilizers and said action will be taken under Essential Commodities Act and also released awareness posters on alternative compound fertilizers and FID requirement and officials attended the programme.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sidrameshwara and agriculture officials said farmers should follow guidance for balanced fertiliser use and maintain caution against panic buying to ensure stable supply and sustainable farming in the district.

# Yaduveer Leads Mysuru's Grand Tribute to Nalvadi

**MYSURU**

It was a packed and emotionally significant day for Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar as he led several commemorative events across the city on Thursday to mark the 142nd birth anniversary of his illustrious great-grandfather, Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, the visionary ruler who transformed Mysore into a model state.

Yaduveer's hectic schedule began at the crack of dawn with a visit to the sacred Chamundi Hill, where he offered special prayers to Goddess Chamundeshwari, the presiding deity of the Mysore royal family. The hill temple witnessed a traditional royal welcome as the chief priest, temple Dikshit and Executive Officer received him with customary honours.

A detailed pooja was performed in the sanctum sanctorum seeking the blessings of the Goddess. Following the rituals, Yaduveer received prasada and interacted briefly with devotees. Many pilgrims waiting in queues eagerly captured his arrival and departure on their mobile phones, turning the occasion into a memorable moment.

As part of the birth anniversary celebrations, Yaduveer sponsored free meals for devotees at the temple premises. Hundreds of pilgrims partook in the prasada bhojana organised in memory of Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar.

The MP then embarked on a whirlwind tour across Mysuru city, visiting numerous food distribution centres set up by social, cultural and religious organisations. Thousands of meals were served across the city to mark the occasion, and Yaduveer made it a point to personally inaugurate several such initiatives despite his packed schedule. At K.R. Circle, the epicentre of the celebrations, enthusiastic crowds greeted him as he distributed specially prepared Mysore Pak sponsored by Guru Sweets, credited with popularising the iconic sweet that has become synonymous with the city's culinary heritage.

**"Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar dedicated his life to the welfare of the people. This day is an opportuni ty for all of us to reme mber his vision and renew our commitment to public service."**

—Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar

**"It was heartening to see Yaduveer begin the day with prayers to God dess Chamundeshwari. It reflects the deep bond between the royal family and Mysuru's traditions."**

—A devotee at Chamundi Hill

**"Despite his busy schedule, Yaduveer visited several food distribution centres. People appreciated his effort to persona lly participate in the celebrations."**

—Raghavendra, resident of Nazarbad

**"The distribution of Mysore Pak added sweetness to the celebrations. The atmosphere was festive and people were delighted to receive it from Yaduveer himself."**

—Shobha Rao, a visitor at K.R. Circle

## MLA launches road upgrade works in Hunsur

**HUNSUR**

MLA G D Harish Gowda performed a gudali puja for development works of the old Mysore Bantwal State Highway 88 in Hunsur limits under Public Works Department at a cost of eight crore fifty lakh rupees.

Speaking after the ceremony near the old bus stand on Wednesday he said that a 4 point 7 kilometre stretch from Ursu Putthali to the old bridge will be upgraded into a four lane road and CC drains will be built on both sides for smooth water flow.

Harish Gowda said that the new Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is expected to bring more funds for Hunsur development and earlier in the Siddaramaiah government irrigation minister D K Shivakumar had released one hundred ten crore rupees for irrigation works.Out of this thirty eight crore will be used for Kattemalalavadi canal and ninety two crore for Marur branch Odakette canal and the works will start next month he added. Funds of twenty lakh rupees each have been sanctioned for construction of Gondhali community hall and Ganiga community hall from MP fund and work will begin soon and there is also a proposal to clean Lakshmana Theertha river which he hopes to complete soon. MLA also performed puja for construction of a permanent shop for flower sellers near the old bus stand costing ten lakh rupees from MLA fund.

Leaders and officials including JDS Taluk President M B Surendra and others attended the programme and MLA said that more development works will continue in coming days and expressed confidence that government support will improve taluk infrastructure for better public facilities.

# BLOs to visit Door-to-Door from June 30 to July 29: DC

96% Voter Mapping Completed in Mysuru District

**MYSURU**

As per the directions of the Election Commission of India, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is being undertaken in the district. So far, 96 per cent voter mapping has been completed in Mysuru district, said Deputy Commissioner Lakshmikanth Reddy G.

Addressing a meeting of leaders of various political parties at the Deputy Commissioner's Office here on Thursday, he said the qualifying date for the SIR exercise has been fixed as October 1. Preparatory work, training and printing activities will be carried out from June 20 to June 29. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct door-to-door visits from June 30 to July 29. Rationalisation of polling stations will be undertaken on July 29. The draft electoral roll will be published on August 5. Claims and objections can be filed from August 5 to September 4. Disposal of claims and objections will be taken up from August 5 to October 3. The final electoral roll will be published on October 7, he explained while detailing the schedule.

He said BLOs will distribute enumeration forms to voters during their house visits between June 30 and July 29. After voters fill up the forms, they will be collected before July 29 and the draft electoral roll will be published on August 5.

The Deputy Commissioner urged the public to furnish accurate information in the enumeration forms, sign them and return them to the BLOs. Providing false information regarding deceased persons, migrated voters or any other incorrect details is a punishable offence, he warned.

He said the SIR process is being conducted transparently to ensure that every eligible citizen of India is able to exercise the right to vote and that no person holds voting rights at more than one place. Names will be deleted from the electoral roll only after due verification and scrutiny of the required information and documents.

As per the Election Commission's guidelines, the 2002 electoral roll has been taken as the benchmark and compared with the current 2025 electoral roll for mapping purposes. BLOs have already conducted house-to-house verification and identified 96 per cent of voters in the district, linking them with their respective families.

**Work in Coordination**

Lakshmikanth Reddy said that while BLOs will visit households from June 30 to July 29, Booth Level Agents (BLAs) should coordinate with the public and BLOs to ensure that enumeration forms reach every household and are duly filled and returned. Political parties have been asked to appoint agents for all booths and furnish their details to the election authorities.

He said BLOs will visit each household at least three times, deliver the enumeration forms, obtain confirmation from voters and collect signed forms. Members of the public should receive, verify and compulsorily return the forms to the BLOs. Failure to do so could result in their names being omitted from the electoral roll. He appealed to all political parties to cooperate in this large-scale exercise. Eligible Voters to be Included Upon Submission of Required Documents

The Deputy Commissioner explained that if the name of the head of a family appeared in the 2002 electoral roll, inclusion of newly eligible members of that family would become easier. Persons who have married and moved into the district or migrated from elsewhere may not have family linkage if their names do not appear in the old electoral roll. If their names exist in the electoral roll of their previous place of residence, those details can be used for inclusion.

For individuals who have not been mapped, their names can be included in the electoral roll upon submission of the prescribed documents along with the enumeration form as specified by the Election Commission, he added.

Additional Deputy Commissioner R. Aishwarya and leaders of various political parties were present at the meeting.

# *Nalwadi's spirit of service is an inspiration for all: MP Yaduveer*

**MYSURU**

Mysuru-Kodagu Member of Parliament Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar said that irrespective of religion or beliefs, it is extremely important for people in society to live with mutual harmony and a spirit of service.

Speaking after inaugurating the Rajarshi Sri Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar Jayanti celebrations organized here on Thursday, he noted that the Department of Kannada and Culture has been successfully celebrating the birth anniversary of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar for the past ten years and stressed that greater efforts should be made to introduce his achievements and contributions to society. Karnataka is recognized today as a progressive state due to the contributions of many leaders. Among them, the vision and accomplishments of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar occupy a place of great importance. Remembering and honoring his achievements is the duty of every citizen, he said.

The MP said building a developed Karnataka on the lines of the "Golden Mysuru" envisioned during Nalwadi's reign would be the true tribute to the great ruler. Everyone must work towards passing on his values and principles to future generations.

Retired Principal and author Siddaswamy said that in the history of the Mysore Kingdom, nearly 52 distinguished personalities, including chieftains, Commissioners, and Diwans, had rendered service. However, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar shone like a pole star in history. Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar was conferred an honorary doctorate by Banaras University and therefore it would be more appropriate to address him as Rajarshi Dr. Sri Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar.

During the reign of Chamaraja Wadiyar X, the Representative Assembly was established in Mysore, sowing the seeds of democracy. Carrying this forward, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar established the Legislative Council in 1907. Even before Dr. B.R. Ambedkar laid the foundation for reservations in India, Nalwadi had constituted the Miller Committee in 1918 to provide opportunities for backward classes. Through this initiative, justice was ensured for Dalits and backward communities in governance, he explained.

## Koonabevu School plants saplings for Environment Day

**CHITRADURGA**

Saving and nurturing environment is the best gift for future generations. Speaking at World Environment Day program at Koonabevu Government High School in Chitradurga taluk, headmaster S Hanumanthappa said environmental protection must be top priority for everyone.

The program was organised by Koonabevu Gram Panchayat on Thursday on school premises where a sapling plantation drive was held. He said planting more trees is the only solution to problems like low rainfall, oxygen shortage and rising global temperature. He urged students to plant and care for a tree in the name of mother as suggested by Prime Minister.

Koonabevu Gram Panchayat Development Officer Dhananjaya Reddy said a healthy life depends on a clean environment. He added that planting trees can help prevent future drought and heat rise. Saplings like neem, honge and other useful plants are being distributed to schools with support of the forest department.

## QUICK READ

### Villagers and firefighters rescue man trapped in well safely

**CH NEWS,** Mangaluru
A man named Navin Kumar was rescued after falling into a 40-foot-deep well in Nivasi near Moodarangady in Dakshina Kannada district. The incident occurred while he was carrying out repair work at his house and reportedly lost balance, plunging into the well. He managed to stay afloat by holding onto a pipe, which helped him survive until rescue teams arrived. Fire and Emergency Services personnel, assisted by local villagers, launched a rope-based rescue operation and safely brought him to the surface. He was later shifted to a hospital for treatment. Authorities have advised caution near open wells.

### Minority welfare invites post-matric hostel admissions

**CH NEWS,** Chitradurga
Minority Welfare Department has invited applications for new admission to post-matric boys and girls hostels in the district. Applications are open until June 30 for students studying PUC, Diploma and ITI courses. Eligible candidates from minority communities including Muslims, Christians, Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs, Parsis along with Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes can apply. Students must submit forms online through State Hostel Software portal. For help they may contact Taluk Extension Extension hostels district minority information centres. Officials said this facility aims to support education and safe accommodation for students in need.

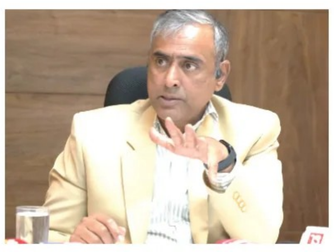
### Yelaburga opens micro loan scheme for vendors

**CH NEWS,** Koppal
Yelaburga Town Panchayat has invited applications under PM SVANidhi Lok Kalyan Mela to support street vendors with micro loans from banks. Under the scheme, street vendors can access small loans of 15 thousand, 25 thousand and 50 thousand rupees through the Urban Local Body and partner banks. Lok Kalyan Mela will run from June 1 to June 30 to process applications for street vendor benefits across Yelaburga town. Eligible vendors can apply at Yelaburga Town Panchayat office and contact De Nalm officials during working hours for guidance and approval information.

# Citizens urged to cooperate during voter revision drive

## SIR schedule runs June–October 2026 with surveys, revisions and roll publication; Bengaluru conducts awareness campaigns ensuring accurate voter lists

**BENGALURU**



District officials in Bengaluru said preparations have been completed for the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls under the Greater Bengaluru Authority. Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said 72 percent of mapping work has been completed across the city and instructions have been given to finish remaining work quickly. Booth Level Officers will conduct door to door visits and collect information using prescribed forms with full cooperation requested from citizens.

The Election Commission is conducting the revision to ensure eligible voters are included and ineligible names are removed from rolls according to guidelines. As part of the process the electoral roll will be frozen on 16 June 2026 and forms 6 6A 7 and 8 will be cleared within time while political parties can submit forms as per Election Commission rules before draft publication.

The SIR schedule includes preparation and training from 20 June 2026 to 29 June 2026 house to house survey from 30 June to 29 July rationalisation of polling stations on 29 July draft roll publication on 5 August claims period till 4 September hearing till 3 October and final roll on 7 October. Officials said awareness programmes SVEEP activities and IEC campaigns will be launched across Bengaluru through corporations and public announcement systems to educate citizens about the revision exercise. Authorities appealed to citizens to cooperate fully so that every eligible voter is included and errors in the electoral roll are avoided ensuring transparency and fairness in elections across the city.

Special Commissioner Election Division Sushama Godbole Additional District Election Officer Jagadish and Assistant Commissioner M Srinivas were present along with other officials and supported the briefing on voter roll revision process ensuring coordination between departments and election authorities for smooth implementation of the programme in Bengaluru urban areas as part of the Election Commission directed exercise aimed at maintaining accurate electoral rolls and strengthening democratic participation through proper verification mapping and citizen cooperation across all wards in the Greater Bengaluru Authority limits ensuring free fair transparent and updated voter list system across the city areas.

# Codava leaders submit memorandum after Sathyagraha

**MADIKERI**

**Codava leaders seek electoral roll correction and census recognition to safeguard indigenous identity, ensuring accurate demographic records, fair representation, and protection of constitutional rights**

The Codava National Council (CNC) held a peaceful Sathyagraha, at the Deputy Commissioner's office premises in Madikeri, Kodagu district, before submitting a detailed memorandum through the Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate.

The memorandum was addressed to five key constitutional and administrative authorities, including the Union Minister for Home Affairs, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, the Chief Election Commissioner, the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka, and the Chairman of the High Level Committee on Demographic Change.

CNC representatives stated that the document raises concerns regarding the protection of Codava indigenous identity and calls for corrective administrative measures in official records. A major focus of the memorandum is the demand for an electoral roll cleanup to ensure accuracy and prevent discrepancies in voter data.

The group also urged proper recognition of the Codava community in upcoming census exercises, emphasizing the need for accurate demographic classification and preservation of cultural identity. Leaders said such measures are essential to safeguard constitutional rights and ensure fair representation.

The memorandum reportedly outlines four core demands aimed at strengthening identity safeguards, improving administrative transparency, and ensuring that official data systems correctly reflect the community's status. The CNC stressed that their approach remains peaceful, democratic, and within constitutional frameworks.

The Sathyagraha concluded with the submission of the memorandum, with participants reiterating their appeal to authorities for immediate attention to their concerns.

*Raju said Environment Day must go beyond speeches, urging tree planting and warning that deforestation can cause disasters*

# Environmental protection is everyone's shared responsibility

**RAMANAGARA**

Former MLA and District Guarantee Implementation Committee President K Raju said that protecting the environment is a shared duty for all people and not just a one day activity during World Environment Day celebrations at the city transport agency divisional office in Ramanagara on Thursday.

He said people must feel thankful for nature because everything comes from it, but human greed is causing rising air, water and land pollution and urgent solutions are needed before the damage grows worse and affects human life in future generations. Raju added that Environment Day should not remain only as speeches but should create awareness in everyone and people are cutting trees for selfish needs which may lead to serious disasters if not controlled and he urged citizens to plant at least one tree every year like the example set by Thimmakka.

Divisional Controller Purushottam said planting more trees helps provide clean air and urban growth has reduced air quality due to environmental imbalance and he appealed to everyone to take responsibility for protecting nature through tree plantation.

On the occasion officials including Taluk Guarantee Implementation Committee President V H Raju Labor Welfare Officer Somashekar and transport department staff participated and K Raju also launched a bus air pollution inspection drive aimed at reducing environmental pollution.

Divisional Traffic Officer Srinivas Divisional Technical Architect Muthuraj and Divisional Administrative Officer A E Jayaram were present along with other staff and they emphasized coordinated efforts for environmental protection and urged citizens to support tree plantation and pollution control measures for a healthier future. The programme concluded with awareness activities and commitment to protect environment for future generations.

# Byndoor MLA launches road works with bhoomi puja

**BYNDOOR**

BJP MLA Gururaj Gantihole carried out multiple bhoomi puja ceremonies to officially launch road development works across several villages in the Byndoor assembly constituency of coastal Karnataka. The initiatives aim to strengthen rural connectivity and improve transportation infrastructure for local residents.

The programme began in Paduvaru village, where the MLA performed the traditional ritual to mark the start of road improvement works on the stretch leading towards Virupakshi. The project has been sanctioned under a ₹25 lakh government grant. Later, in Nadu village, he conducted another bhoomi puja at the Padukone Mahavishnu Temple premises for the road connecting to Attikona. This development work is supported by a ₹20 lakh allocation aimed at upgrading key village routes. In Jadkal village, two separate foundation ceremonies were held on the same day. The first was for road development near the Marlakaan Sri Brahmayakshi Temple along the Hulipare –Vandedde stretch, funded with ₹5 lakh. The second focused on the Kanki Haskal Pare road, which has also been sanctioned ₹5 lakh for improvement works.

These coordinated infrastructure launches reflect ongoing efforts to enhance rural road connectivity in the constituency. The projects are expected to improve access to local temples, villages, and nearby transport routes, benefiting daily commuters, farmers, and small businesses.

Local residents attended the ceremonies and welcomed the development works, noting that better roads would reduce travel time and improve access during monsoon seasons.

# MCC leads Bengre waterfront cleanup drive

**MANGALURU**

Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) organized a major cleaning drive at Bengre waterfront in Mangaluru, bringing together multiple partner organisations as part of the wider #CleanMangaluru campaign aimed at protecting coastal ecosystems and improving public hygiene along waterbodies.

The initiative received support from the SBI Foundation, Hasiru Dala, NSS unit of St Agnes College, Mahajana Sabha Bengre (R), and Oceans and Waterbodies. Volunteers, including students and community members, actively participated in the shoreline cleanup effort.

The drive focused on removing accumulated plastic waste, discarded fishing materials, ropes, and other debris from the Bengre shoreline, boat jetty area, and surrounding water edges in the coastal settlement. Participants worked in coordinated groups, collecting waste into bags and clearing heavily littered zones along the waterfront.

Visuals from the event showed uniformed students and volunteers working together throughout the cleanup, demonstrating strong community involvement in environmental protection efforts. Organisers noted that sustained waste accumulation in coastal areas poses risks to marine life and local livelihoods, particularly in fishing communities.

The collected waste was later gathered and transported in a truck as part of proper disposal arrangements. The cleanup concluded with volunteers assembling together, marking the completion of the drive and highlighting collective commitment to maintaining cleaner surroundings.

Officials and organisers described the initiative as a successful example of public participation in environmental conservation.

# DC ordered inquiry over illegal crop insurance paymentz

**CHITRADURGA**

District Commissioner T Venkatesh has ordered an inquiry into illegal crop insurance payments made in Hirehalli village of Talaku hobli in Challakere taluk during the 2025-26 monsoon season.

He directed officials to investigate after reports that insurance companies released payments without mandatory joint inspection by Revenue, Agriculture and Horticulture departments.

According to the district administration Rs 44 51 655 was paid to 77 farmers without proper survey, leading to protests and road blockades by angry farmers. In a review meeting at the district office, insurance representatives failed to give proper justification for the payments and could not explain the basis of approval.

The inquiry found that 59 farmers received payment for registered crops, five cases had no crop on land, eleven cases showed mismatch of crop details, and two cases involved excess land area claims, officials said.

Farmers had earlier protested and blocked roads in Hirehalli village demanding action, after which the district administration called a high level meeting with officials and company representatives.

Officials present included agriculture and horticulture officers, census officials and other district staff who participated in the investigation process.

The district commissioner said strict action will be taken against those responsible if violations are confirmed and recovery of wrongly paid insurance amounts will also be examined under rules to protect public money and ensure transparency in crop insurance schemes across the district. P Venkatesh also instructed police and revenue officers to gather complete details from insurance representatives regarding approval procedures and documentation used in the disputed payments.

Officials said the joint survey system involving Revenue Agriculture and Horticulture departments is mandatory to verify crop loss before any insurance payout and its violation has triggered concern among farmers and administration. They added that awareness will be increased among farmers about proper procedures and documentation so that future claims are processed fairly and without disputes ensuring accountability at every stage of the crop insurance process in the district. The administration assured continued monitoring and urged farmers to report irregularities immediately through helpline services to prevent such issues in future.

**YOUTH DEFENCE INSPIRATION**

# *MLA hails Mangaluru woman joining Indian Navy*

**MANGALURU**

Mangaluru MLA D. Vedavyasa Kamath visited the residence of Nishel Flora D'Almeida in Kulshekhar Konguru to personally congratulate her on her selection as a Sub Lieutenant in the Indian Navy. The visit was marked by appreciation for her achievement and recognition of her contribution to bringing pride to the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that Nishel's success has brought immense pride and joy to the entire Tulu Nadu region. He described her achievement as a significant milestone that reflects dedication, discipline, and commitment to serving the nation through the armed forces.

He added that such accomplishments serve as a strong source of inspiration for the youth, encouraging them to pursue careers in the defence services and other national institutions. According to him, young achievers like Nishel play an important role in motivating others to aim high and contribute to nation-building.

The MLA also noted that the warm reception extended by local residents highlights the deep respect people hold for the Indian Armed Forces. He said that joining the Navy is not only a personal achievement but also a matter of pride for the entire community.

During the interaction, Kamath conveyed his heartfelt wishes to Nishel for a successful and rewarding career in the Indian Navy. He expressed confidence that she would receive many opportunities to serve the country with distinction and bring further honour to her family and region.

Local residents and well-wishers also appreciated her achievement, stating that her success would encourage more young women to consider careers in defence services. The occasion was seen as a moment of collective pride for the Kulshekhar Konguru locality and the broader Mangaluru region.

# Akshara Abhyas ceremony held with devotion and excitement

**MAGADI**

The Akshara Abhyas ceremony at Sri Vasavi Vidyapeeth School in Magadi was held with great devotion and excitement for newly admitted children. BEO Rajegowda said Akshara Abhyas is both a cultural and educational foundation that builds strong values and future discipline in children. He said children should learn morals at home because they spend more time at home than at school and culture is important today.

Prashupala Vasanthakumar said learning letters is a sacred moment and education holds a special place in Indian tradition and values. He praised the school for giving both academic knowledge and moral education to students.

Chairman B N Raju said the school focuses on quality education and hopes students become responsible citizens in society. The event included Saraswati and Ganesha puja along with homa havana performed in the school premises with devotion.

Children wrote Om and Aa Ee on rice plates marking their first step into learning while parents watched emotionally. Teachers welcomed students with sweets and educational materials encouraging them with care and affection. Many parents and school staff attended the programme and witnessed the traditional initiation ceremony with joy.

School secretary Suresh Babu board members and teaching staff including Nataraju Rajat Jeevan SP Nagesh and others were present along with parents and local residents who appreciated the programme and said such initiatives help children develop strong values discipline and confidence from the beginning and the school management thanked everyone for their participation and support and said it will continue to organise similar cultural and educational events in future to strengthen learning environment and moral education for students in the region.

QUICK READ

## Justice Hanchate urges five lakh saplings drive

**CH NEWS,** Chikkaballapur
High Court Justice Hanchate Sanjeev Kumar chaired a meeting at the District Court in Chikkaballapur regarding a plan to plant five lakh saplings across the district. He said the initiative will improve greenery, groundwater levels and environmental balance in the region and appealed to industries, banks, voluntary groups, social workers and organisations to cooperate and participate actively in the plantation drive District Principal and Sessions Judge T P Ramalingegowda State Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Shashidhar Shetty District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary B Shilpa District judges and Advocates Association President K V Abhilash attended the meeting.

## Wild elephant dies after getting stuck in mud

**CH NEWS,** Madikeri
Wild elephant died at 7th Hoskote near Suntikoppa in Madikeri after getting stuck in mud. It is suspected that the 25-year-old elephant died of suffocation after it got trapped in mud during the night and could not escape. Forest officials visited the spot on Thursday and inspected the area after the incident was reported. Forest Department doctor Dr Mujeeb conducted the post-mortem and the last rites were performed at the site. ACF Naveen Kumar, Kushalnagar Zone RFO Rakshit and other staff also visited the location. They confirmed details and completed inspection of the case site.

# FIR against ex BJP MLA over speech

### A protest against withdrawal of Aland riot cases saw allegations calling Kalaburagi "Chhota Pakistan"

**KALABURAGI**

An FIR has been registered against former BJP MLA Dattatraya Patil Revoor in Kalaburagi over allegations of making a communal and inflammatory speech during a recent party protest, police confirmed.

The case was booked at Station Bazaar Police Station based on a complaint filed by Congress leader Azhar Hussain. The complaint alleges that the former MLA delivered a provocative speech during a BJP protest held in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office.

The protest was organised against the withdrawal of cases related to the Aland riots. During the event, held in the presence of Karnataka BJP President B. Y. Vijayendra, the former MLA allegedly made remarks claiming that certain political leaders and the state government were attempting to turn Kalaburagi into a "Chhota Pakistan."

He also reportedly referred to former minister Qamarul Islam and reiterated similar claims about previous and current political leadership, which triggered controversy. Videos of the speech quickly went viral on social media, drawing sharp political reactions and criticism from opposition leaders.

Following the complaint, police registered a case on Wednesday evening under Sections 353(1)(2) and 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), according to official sources. Authorities stated that further investigation is underway to verify the statements and examine the circumstances under which the speech was made.

Police have not yet announced any arrests in connection with the case. Meanwhile, political tensions in the region have escalated, with leaders from different parties exchanging accusations over the incident.

Officials said the investigation will consider video evidence, witness statements, and the context of the protest before taking further legal steps.

## Kalaburagi to host Muslim Convention on June 7

**KALABURAGI**

The district unit of the Karnataka State Federation of Muslim Organisations has announced that a "Karnataka Muslim Convention" will be held on June 7 at 11 a.m. at Sabha Function Hall in Kalaburagi. The event will focus on reviewing government commitments to the Muslim community and discussing future demands.

Speaking at a press conference at the Press Club, federation leader Ibrahim Patel Yalwar said the convention will revolve around the theme: "What Did the Congress Government Promise, What Has It Delivered, and What Next?" He said a detailed report and a charter of demands will be presented during the programme.

The report has been prepared by the drafting team of the ad hoc committee of the Karnataka State Muslim Federation in consultation with experts from various fields. It evaluates the implementation of promises made during the Congress government's three-year tenure, including issues of political representation, welfare measures, and policy commitments.

Community leaders said the convention will also highlight concerns such as reservation policies, action against hate speech, budget allocations, Waqf-related issues, scholarships, and representation in legislative bodies.

They expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of adequate Muslim representation in the upcoming Legislative Council elections and urged the government to address these gaps.

Leader Afail Mehmood noted that while the withdrawal of hijab restrictions had been implemented, several other commitments remain pending. He also stressed the need for stronger political inclusion at both state and national levels, including representation in the Rajya Sabha and the state cabinet.

Organisers clarified that the convention is not a political or protest event but a democratic platform to present community concerns. They also stated that no political leaders have been invited to the programme.

The press conference was attended by retired Tahsildar Syed Nisar Ahmed Wazir, Firoz Khan Wadi, and other community representatives.

## Kalyan Karnataka districts seek fair political representation

**RAICHUR**

Raghavendra Kushtagi convener of Kalyan Karnataka Region Development Struggle Committee demanded more ministerial representation for the Kalyan Karnataka region in the state cabinet. He said in Raichur that as per Nanjundappa report 25 percent posts should go to this region and demanded 8 ministerial posts.

He added that only few ministers from Kalaburagi and Bidar are included and other districts like Raichur Yadgir Koppal and Ballari should also get representation. He said earlier governments gave representation and now injustice should not continue and 25 percent seats in boards corporations and awards should be reserved. He also demanded separate recruitment authority for teachers and health staff

**Kushtagi demanded fair regional representation in ministries, boards and recruitment, warning of protests over neglected development in Kalyan Karnataka districts**

under Kalyan Karnataka Development Board due to large vacancies in education and health departments. He warned that if government ignores demands public protests will intensify across seven districts and development funds must be used properly.

Dr Sharada Hulinayak said women representation is missing in cabinet and demanded correction while others attended the press meet. Leaders from Raichur and surrounding districts supported the demand and said regional development has been slow despite repeated assurances from the government. They urged Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister to ensure fair ministerial distribution and strengthen Kalyan Karnataka Development Board activities. They also said that vacancies in education and health must be filled quickly to improve basic services in rural areas.

Speakers warned that continued neglect may lead to protests across the region if demands are not considered soon. Representatives including B Basavaraj Janavesli Kataraki R Basavaraj Kavita Bhaskara and Haravi Naganagowda participated in the meeting and discussed regional concerns.

## Eshwar Khandre becomes Minister; celebrations erupt in Bidar

**BIDAR**

Bidar district witnessed celebrations after Bhalki MLA and All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha national president Eshwar Khandre was appointed as a minister in the newly formed Congress government led by Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar.

Soon after the announcement, Congress workers gathered at Ambedkar Circle in Bidar city and celebrated the development with slogans, fireworks, and distribution of sweets. Supporters raised slogans praising the Congress party leadership, the Chief Minister, and the newly inducted minister, expressing happiness over the representation from the district.

Party workers said the inclusion of Khandre in the cabinet is a matter of pride for Bidar and will strengthen the political influence of the region in state-level decision-making. They also expressed confidence that his experience and leadership would contribute to the development of the Kalyana Karnataka region.

Similar celebrations were reported in Bhalki and other parts of the district, where party workers and supporters gathered in large numbers. In Bhalki, Congress members marked the occasion by bursting crackers and exchanging sweets, calling it a historic moment for the constituency.

Leaders from various Congress committees, youth wings, and social media teams participated in the celebrations. They stated that the ministerial position for Khandre would help accelerate development works and bring more government attention to local issues such as infrastructure, education, and welfare schemes.

Party leaders also highlighted that this is Khandre's third tenure as a minister, describing it as recognition of his long-standing political experience and contribution to public service.

Overall, the announcement created a festive atmosphere across Bidar district, with supporters describing it as a significant political milestone for both Bhalki constituency and the wider region.

## Farmers demand action on Almatti dam verdict

**VIJAYAPURA**

Farmers leaders Arvind Kulkarni and Mahadevappa Teli addressed a press conference at the District Kannada Sahitya Parishad Bhavan regarding the tribunal verdict on Almatti reservoir water level. They said the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal order allowed raising the Almatti dam water level from 519.60 metres to 524.256 metres and a central government notification has been issued for implementation.

Leaders said Vijayapura district is known as the land of five rivers and called the second Punjab but many villages still face drinking water shortage and irrigation problems. They added that farmers who lost land for the Almatti reservoir are struggling even after compensation and many families have migrated to other states for livelihood. They said delay in implementing the tribunal decision has increased project cost from seventeen thousand crore in 2010 to nearly one lakh crore at present.

Farmers leaders alleged that successive governments have failed to raise the water level as permitted by the tribunal causing injustice to the farming community. A seminar will be held on June 8 2026 at Kandagal Hanamataraya Ranga Mandira in Vijayapura to discuss water allocation and farmers issues. Farmer leaders said religious seers academicians retired judge and career experts will participate in the seminar as chief guests and speakers.

They appealed to farmers from Vijayapura and Bagalkot districts to attend the seminar in large numbers and support discussions on water sharing. They expressed concern that lack of irrigation planning and political negligence has left many areas without drinking water and agricultural support. They recalled that the tribunal gave interim verdict in 2010 and final order in 2013 allowing reservoir height increase.

Leaders said rehabilitation and compensation for submerged land will require massive funding and planning if implementation begins now. They stressed unity among farmers and urged government to act quickly for fair water distribution and justice.

*BLOs will conduct house visits June 30–July 29 distributing forms; citizens must comply for inclusion in voter list*

# Fake and ineligible voters must be removed from list: G Prabhu

**CHIKKABALLAPUR**

District Magistrate G Prabhu said that the Special Comprehensive Revision of Voters List 2026 aims to ensure that every eligible citizen is included and no unauthorized or ineligible voter remains in the electoral roll. He said the Election Commission guidelines are being followed and the revision process includes preparatory work training printing house to house survey polling station rearrangement objection filing and draft roll publication with final voter list scheduled for October 7.

Officials said there are 1069693 voters in the district and 1018489 have already been mapped with 95.21 percent progress and 1293 BLOs and 129 supervisors have been appointed for the exercise.

BLOs will visit every household from June 30 to July 29 and distribute enumeration forms in duplicate and citizens must fill and submit them correctly or their names may not be included in the draft voter list. He appealed to political parties booth level agents and citizens to cooperate and additional polling booths will be created where voter strength exceeds 1200 to ensure fair representation and smooth conduct of elections.

District administration officials including Additional District Collector Dr N Bhaskar Sub Divisional Officer D H Ashwin and representatives of major political parties attended a workshop where detailed schedule and responsibilities were explained to ensure transparency efficiency and cooperation in the voter list revision exercise across the district. Officials stressed that the Special Comprehensive Revision is essential to protect democratic rights ensure inclusion of all eligible voters remove duplicate entries and strengthen the integrity of the electoral process in Chikkaballapur district.

They added that door to door visits will continue as per schedule and citizens are urged to provide accurate documents cooperate with BLOs and ensure that no eligible voter is left out and no ineligible name remains in the final electoral roll published by the Election Commission of India. Authorities said public cooperation is crucial for completing the revision on time and ensuring a clean and accurate voter list for strengthening democracy in the district.

## Artists and leaders unite supporting Kannada language movement

**VIJAYAPURA**

The Kannada movement leader Gangadhar Koralli led strong protests after Karnataka unification demanding Kannada as the first language and administrative language across the state.

The demand was discussed in Kannada Sahitya Sammelana sessions and the government formed a committee led by writer Dr V K Gokak and its report known as Gokaka Report strongly recommended Kannada as administrative language due to its rich history and public voice.

Despite recommendations the government delayed final decision leading to growing protests and Koralli started a fast unto death on 18 March 1982 which continued for 51 days and received support from leaders and artists across Karnataka including George Fernandes Dr Rajkumar Vishnuvardhan and others.

After prolonged struggle the Gundu Rao government accepted the Gokak Report and implemented Kannada as administrative language marking a major victory for the movement though activists felt recognition for Koralli was still lacking in later years despite his sacrifice and leadership role.Today supporters demand that Gangadhar Koralli legacy be honoured through a study chair in universities or memorial building in his district as his role in Kannada movement remains significant in history and continues to inspire future generations of Kannada speakers.

ANTI ENCROACHMENT ACTION

# *Shahapur MLA inspects drain work, warns encroachers*

**SHAHAPUR**

MLA Sharanabasappa Doddapur inspected ongoing drainage construction works from Mochigadda to Basaveshwara Circle in the town and issued a strong warning against road encroachment and improper waste disposal by local traders.

During the inspection, the MLA observed that garbage and construction debris being dumped into drains had led to blockages, causing rainwater to overflow and enter nearby commercial shops even during light showers. He stressed that

such negligence was worsening urban flooding and sanitation issues in the area.

Addressing shop owners and traders, the MLA urged them to maintain cleanliness and avoid dumping waste on roads and drainage channels. He warned that strict action would be taken against those responsible for obstructing public infrastructure and contributing to civic problems.

The drainage project, being executed under the municipal IDSMT grant, is estimated to cost ₹1.5 crore. Officials informed that the work is aimed at improving stormwater flow and preventing waterlogging in key commercial stretches of Shahapur town. However, before the completion of the project, unauthorized dumping in the drainage lines has already created obstacles to smooth wa ter flow. To address the issue, an additional ₹65 lakh has bee n sanctioned for further impro vements and corrective measures. The MLA emphasized that the project is intended to provide a long-term solution to recurring flooding issues in the locality. He also instructed municipal authorities to monitor the area regularly and ensure that no encroachments or waste dumping occur in the future.

Local leaders, including municipal officials and Congress party functionaries, accompanied the MLA during the inspection. They discussed the progress of the project and possible measures to prevent similar problems in other parts of the town. Residents and traders were also advised to cooperate with the civic body to maintain cleanliness and ensure the success of the drainage improveme nt works aimed at improving ur ban infrastructure in Shahapur.

## MLA stresses urgent help for rain affected families

**HULSUR**

Mahera, daughter of Ismail from Hulsur town, died after stones fell from her house roof during heavy rain and storm a few days ago. On Thursday MLA Sharanu Salagar visited the grieving family and handed over five lakh rupees compensation sanctioned by the government and consoled them. Officials said the government will continue to support the family and provide necessary help in this difficult time.

Tehsildar Shivanand Maitre, Revenue Inspector Sharanu Pavadshetty, Jagannath Daytne, Vidyasagar Banasode and Sunil Kadadi were present during the visit along with other revenue and police officials who accompanied the MLA and interacted with family members expressing condolences and assuring further assistance from administration level in coordination with local authorities for rehabilitation and support measures in Hulsur region following the incident caused by heavy rains and structural collapse of house roof stones which led to tragic death of young woman.

## QUICK READ

### Manager in Zubeen Garg case denied bail

**Guwahati**
The Gauhati High Court refused to consider the bail plea of Siddhartha Sarma, a key suspect in the high-profile death case of iconic Assamese singer Zubeen Garg. Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia's bench rejected the application, canceling the scheduled hearing. Sarma, the singer's former manager, sought relief after a lower court previously denied him bail due to the serious murder allegations against him. Garg tragically died in Singapore last September. Despite foreign police ruling out foul play, Assam authorities are pushing forward with a domestic trial against seven accused individuals, backed by massive public demand for justice.

### Rajasthan Patwari arrested for accepting bribe

**Hanumangarh**
India's Anti-Corruption Bureau arrested a local revenue official, Shriram, for accepting a 15,000-rupee bribe. The suspect, working as a Patwari in Rajasthan, was caught red-handed during a carefully planned sting operation. According to police officials, Shriram had demanded a total of 30,000 rupees from a citizen to update official land ownership records. After the victim reported the extortion, investigators verified the claim and set a trap to catch the official in the act. The bureau has registered a formal corruption case and urges citizens to report similar government misconduct.

### Flier caught with massive smuggled cash

**Mumbai**
Airport security officials arrested a foreign traveler after discovering hidden foreign currency worth 1.39 crore rupees in his luggage. The Central Industrial Security Force intercepted the passenger at Mumbai airport before he could board a flight bound for Addis Ababa. Vigilant officers flagged the traveler when an X-ray baggage scanner revealed suspicious shapes inside his hand luggage. A detailed physical search uncovered 145,000 undeclared US dollars. Unable to provide legal documents for the cash, the suspect was detained and handed over to customs officials for intensive interrogation regarding international smuggling.

### MET department warns NE of severe rain

**Guwahati**
The India Meteorological Department issued a critical weather warning, predicting heavy to very heavy rainfall across northeastern states for the next six days. Fueled by the arrival of the southwest monsoon, intense downpours accompanied by severe thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds are expected to lash the region. Forecasters warn that wind speeds could reach up to 50 kmph, threatening severe disruptions. Local authorities have advised residents to prepare for potential landslides in hilly terrains, localized flash floods, and major traffic delays. Farmers are also urged to safeguard crops from waterlogging.

# VENEZUELA ACTING PREZ PAYS TRIBUTE AT RAJGHAT

The symbolic visit emphasized the continuing relevance of Gandhi's peaceful principles in shaping the growing relationship between India and Venezuela

**NEW DELHI**

Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez paid formal homage to Mahatma Gandhi at the Rajghat memorial in New Delhi.

The symbolic visit emphasized the continuing relevance of Gandhi's peaceful principles in shaping the growing relationship between India and Venezuela.

India's Ministry of External Affairs highlighted the event on social media, describing it as a meaningful tribute to Gandhi's lasting legacy. Indian officials noted that the leader's historic ideals continue to inspire the modern diplomatic partnership between the two nations.

Earlier, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held extensive, wide-ranging talks with Rodriguez. The high-level discussions focused on reviewing the full spectrum of bilateral relations and discovering fresh avenues for collaboration. Both leaders agreed to explore new trade investments in key fields, including global energy resources, pharmaceutical healthcare, manufacturing, and the automobile sector.

During the meeting, which included External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, the leaders also reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing the socioeconomic interests of the Global South. Jaishankar later met separately with Rodriguez, expressing high praise for her long-standing commitment to strengthening ties.

Rodriguez arrived in the Indian capital recently for an official five-day state visit. The accompanying Venezuelan delegation plans to tour several domestic industrial hubs to observe India's technological and manufacturing capabilities. Indian public sector undertakings have already invested heavily in Venezuela's energy markets, and this trip aims to build momentum for deeper strategic and economic cooperation.

# BJP-JD(U) hail Modi's record-breaking tenure as PM

**NEW DELHI**

**The BJP leader will complete 4,399 consecutive days in office on the day, eclipsing the first PM's post-1952 record, even though he retains the top spot in terms of total years**

Leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its alliance partner Janata Dal (United) have praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he prepares to become India's longest continuously serving elected leader.

On June 10, Modi will complete 4,399 consecutive days in office. This historic milestone will officially surpass the long-standing record held by India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who served 4,398 consecutive days following the nation's first general elections until his passing in 1964. Coalition partners described the upcoming achievement as a moment of massive national pride, reflecting stable governance and strong public trust.

Alliance leaders emphasized that Modi's focus has never been about breaking records, but rather delivering impactful results for the country. BJP representatives highlighted his dedication, noting that he has worked tirelessly to secure India's borders, elevate its international standing, and bring welfare benefits to the poorest sections of society. JD(U) leaders added that since receiving his first mandate in 2014, the Prime Minister has successfully fulfilled many developmental goals that the nation had been waiting decades to achieve.

Over the past 12 years, India has witnessed significant transformations across multiple economic and industrial sectors. Supporters credit Modi's long tenure with driving the country toward self-reliance and unity. Looking ahead, ruling party members stated that the public's continued faith in his leadership remains a driving force as the administration works toward its long-term vision of building a fully developed nation by 2047.

*Delimitation involves reshaping parliamentary and assembly boundaries to match recent population shifts*

# Delimitation Bill revival gains momentum as Centre eyes 2029 poll

**NEW DELHI**

The Central Government is actively planning to revive the Delimitation Bill to complete the long-pending redrawing of electoral constituencies before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Delimitation involves reshaping parliamentary and assembly boundaries to match recent population shifts. To avoid political gridlock, the government has launched direct consultations with prominent regional groups, including the Dravida Munnetra Kazhakam (DMK) and the Trinamool Congress (TMC). These discussions aim to resolve deep concerns over how changing boundaries could alter state-wise political representation in Parliament.

Southern and eastern states have voiced strong anxiety that a fresh demographic readjustment could reduce their share of seats, penalizing them for successful population control policies. Conversely, faster-growing northern states stand to gain seats. Mindful of these immense sensitivities, the Centre is prioritizing a cooperative approach to build a broad political consensus before reintroducing the bill.

Additionally, authorities are using these stakeholder meetings to discuss another major electoral reform: the "One Nation, One Election" proposal for simultaneous national and state polls. By linking these reforms, the government hopes to create a uniform framework for future elections.

If these cross-party negotiations succeed, the revival of the Delimitation Bill will lead to a massive restructuring of India's electoral system. However, senior officials emphasized that discussions remain at a preliminary stage. The final timeline for introducing the bill will depend entirely on how quickly competing political factions can reach a formal compromise.

### NEC shift focuses on custom growth for NE states

**SHILLONG**

The North Eastern Council (NEC) wrapped up its 73rd Plenary Session, pivoting toward a specialized, state-by-state economic strategy designed to unlock the specific strengths of all eight regional sister states.

Speaking with reporters after the high-level meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio explained that the regional body is utilizing high-powered task forces to customize development. Rather than applying a generic policy across the entire region, these specialized teams have visited each state to evaluate local infrastructure, resources, and industries to pinpoint exact economic growth drivers.

The findings and recommendations of these task forces were presented during the conference to the region's governors, chief ministers, and Union DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. He noted that the presentations sparked deep discussions on modernizing the region's economy through state-specific projects, while simultaneously encouraging cross-border cooperation in high-growth sectors like trade, eco-tourism, and digital connectivity.

The comprehensive review also evaluated ongoing connectivity projects, investment promotions, and closer coordination frameworks between the Northeast and the Centre.

# NDA blames Mamata's arrogance for TMC split

**NEW DELHI**

Leaders of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) have blamed Mamata Banerjee's arrogance and Abhishek Banerjee's dictatorial behavior for the official split of the Trinamool Congress party.

The political fallout occurred just a month after the party's defeat in the West Bengal assembly elections. The crisis deepened when 58 out of Trinamool's 80 elected state lawmakers, led by Ritabrata Banerjee, broke away from the core leadership.

The group submitted a signed resolution to the Speaker, successfully securing recognition as the official majority bloc in the Assembly and the state's principal opposition party.

Reacting to the development, Janata Dal (United) leaders stated that Mamata Banerjee's dismissive attitude toward her own colleagues directly triggered the internal rebellion.

They argued that her general secretary, Abhishek Banerjee, ran the organization like a dictatorship, leaving grassroots leaders with no choice but to break away to save their political careers.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) representatives described the collapse as the natural end of a system built on corruption, exploitation, and dynastic rule.

They alleged that the family-centric leadership had promoted widespread lawlessness across West Bengal for fifteen years, completely alienating voters and lawmakers alike. NDA officials added that the breakaway faction chose to distance itself from the core leadership to reject the mafia culture.

With the Speaker officially accepting the breakaway faction's resolution, political analysts note that Mamata Banerjee has been reduced to leading a minority group, signaling a major shift in West Bengal's political landscape.

### J&K LG stresses unity at interfaith conference

**SRINAGAR**

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha declared that peaceful coexistence and rich cultural diversity have always served as the natural rhythm of life in India.

Sinha shared his perspective while addressing the prominent "Rishiwar" inter-faith conference held in Srinagar. Speaking before an audience of religious scholars, judicial officers, and students, the Lieutenant Governor noted that the core philosophy of honoring and respecting all faiths equally has been deeply woven into the fabric of Indian civilization for thousands of years.

During his address, Sinha contrasted India's historical traditions with modern global struggles. He noted that while many nations find it difficult to handle diverse populations, India has naturally embraced unity.

He cited ancient texts like the Rigveda to emphasize that aligning hearts and minds toward shared societal harmony is a foundational value. He added that India's ongoing commitment to equal religious respect remains one of its greatest philosophical gifts to a fractured world.

### NHRC chief urges strict construction controls

**NEW DELHI**

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairperson Justice V Ramasubramanian called for the strict regulation of construction around natural water bodies to combat the intensifying threat of urban heat waves.

Speaking at a specialized seminar hosted by the NHRC's Core Group on Environment and Climate, Justice Ramasubramanian expressed deep concern over the recurring annual cycle of winter pollution and summer heat waves, noting that current mitigation efforts have shown little visible effect on protecting human lives.

He emphasized that the destruction of local forests and lakes remains the primary catalyst for rising urban heat stress, urging authorities to prioritize sustainable urban development and ecosystem preservation.

**THE OUTCOME**

The high-level discussion brought together health, climate, and environmental experts who proposed several actionable reforms to tackle the climate crisis:

- **Dedicated heat governance:** Experts called for the institutionalization of Heat Action Plans across all states and districts, managed by dedicated "Heat Officers" using integrated digital dashboards for real-time monitoring.
- **Advanced health surveillance:** Representatives from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare warned that heat-related health risks are projected to spike dramatically by 2035. They recommended a unified, scientifically validated reporting system to track heat wave mortality and morbidity.
- **Protection for vulnerable workers:** NHRC Secretary General Bharat Lal highlighted that extreme heat is a growing human rights concern that disproportionately impacts outdoor laborers, construction workers, gig workers, the elderly, and those without access to proper housing or cooling.
- **Protection for vulnerable workers:** AI and infrastructure reforms: Climate scientists suggested utilizing AI-driven vulnerability mapping and ward-level weather forecasting. They also advocated for worker-centric safety protocols, city-level temperature observatories, and the expansion of urban green spaces and water bodies.

# Shah to review B'desh border security

**AGARTALA**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to lead a comprehensive review of security arrangements along the sensitive India-Bangladesh international border.

Shah is scheduled to land in the capital city of Agartala directly from Shillong, where he successfully chaired the 73rd Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council.

Then the Home Minister will hold high-level briefings with senior officers from the Border Security Force (BSF), state police, and intelligence agencies to evaluate ground-level defense preparedness.

Ahead of the main security conference at the BSF frontier headquarters, Shah will personally inspect vulnerable border locations in the West Tripura district. The high-profile assessment focuses heavily on tackling illegal infiltration, cross-border smuggling, narcotics trafficking, and other transnational crimes. Tripura shares an extensive 856-kilometer border with Bangladesh, which remains highly sensitive following the political unrest and subsequent collapse of the Sheikh Hasina-led government in Dhaka.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha highlighted that the state will soon benefit from the Centre's upcoming "Smart Border Project." This initiative integrates advanced technology, including real-time drone surveillance, radar networks, and smart cameras to fortify the remaining unfenced stretches of difficult terrain.

Aside from border strategy, Shah's busy two-day schedule includes addressing troops at a Sainik Sammelan, launching a tree plantation drive, and laying foundation stones for local infrastructure projects. He will also attend a special ceremony for a new hotel venture, marking a joint development agreement between the state government and private investors.

**TAINTED TAPS IN GOTA**

# *Health scare: Cholera scare sparks urgent cleanup in Ahmedabad*

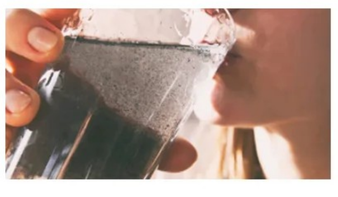
**AHMEDABAD**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah ordered immediate action after nearly 50 residents fell ill from contaminated drinking water in the Gota ward.

The outbreak, marked by severe vomiting and diarrhoea, spanned nine residential societies near Jantanagar Cross Road after sewage leaked into the clean water supply lines.

The health crisis began when a technical glitch occurred during routine drainage repairs. This fault accidentally mixed sewage with drinking water, piping contamination directly into 326 local households.

Responding to the emergency, Amit Shah reviewed containment efforts alongside Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and top Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) officials. Medical teams and engineers rushed to the worst-hit areas, including Akanksha and Navratna flats, to halt the spread of disease.



To manage the outbreak, the AMC deployed 40 health teams to conduct door-to-door checkups. Health workers distributed chlorine tablets to families and launched an extensive operation to drain, clean, and sanitize all contaminated water tanks in the neighborhood.

Dr. Bhavin Solanki, the city's Medical Officer of Health, confirmed that 50 patients received immediate care through mobile medical vans.

"All patients are now stable," Solanki stated, adding that hospitalized residents are recovering well and returning home.

Ahmedabad Mayor Hitesh Barot visited the affected families to offer support, while Municipal Commissioner Banchhanidhi Pani oversaw the medical relief. City engineers are now inspecting underground storage tanks across the area to fix the pipelines and ensure the tap water is safe to drink again.

## QUICK READ

### Desperate river search for missing pilgrim family

**Devprayag**

Special rescue teams have intensified their deep-water search in the Alaknanda river for three missing family members from Jaisalmer. Their car tragically plunged 200 meters down a steep gorge during a Char Dham pilgrimage trip. While workers successfully pulled the wrecked vehicle from the riverbed, it was completely empty. Three bodies have been cremated, and a heartbreakingly sole survivor, a 12-year-old boy, is currently fighting for his life on a ventilator. Divers are bravely battling strong currents to find the missing mother and her two young daughters, leaving devastated relatives praying for closure.

### Punjab police arrest two with deadly bomb

**Mohali**

Police successfully foiled a major terror plot by arresting two men carrying a ready-to-use, 2.5 kg RDX bomb. The suspects, caught near a public park after traveling by bus from Amritsar, were targeting local infrastructure. A bomb squad quickly arrived to safely disarm the dangerous explosive device. Investigations revealed that an overseas handler recruited the financially struggling brothers-in-law through social media, promising them money for the attack. Officers are now tracing the wider network to catch everyone involved, while both captured suspects remain in custody facing serious criminal and explosive charges.

### Congress opposes renaming of Bhopal University

**Bhopal**

The Congress party strongly opposed a new proposal to rename Bhopal's Barkatullah University to Vagdevi Bhojpal University, calling it a politically motivated move. The university's council recently approved the change, which now awaits the governor's final nod. Congress leaders claim the ruling BJP is trying to erase the legacy of legendary freedom fighter Mohammad Barkatullah, who fought British rule. They argued that the government should build new institutions to honor cultural figures instead of altering history, while university officials maintain the new name simply celebrates the region's rich heritage.

# INDIA-AFRICA PARTNERS FOR VACCINE INNOVATION

South African Deputy President Mashatile met Indian pharma leaders in Hyderabad to forge strategic healthcare and manufacturing alliances

**HYDERABAD**

South African Deputy President Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile met with Lakshminarayana Neti, Chief Operating Officer of Biological E Limited, in Hyderabad. This crucial meeting aimed to establish a powerful strategic alliance focused on healthcare innovation and local manufacturing.

During the discussion, Deputy President Mashatile urged top Indian pharmaceutical companies to invest heavily in South Africa. He emphasized that the initiative arrives at a time when his nation is aggressively expanding its health infrastructure and deepening manufacturing capacity with trusted global allies like India. A key goal of the partnership involves transferring specialized technology for a whole-cell 6-in-1 vaccine, a tool deemed vital for immunization programs across Africa.

The visit forms part of a broader diplomatic mission to strengthen economic and strategic ties between the two democracies. Earlier, Mashatile held an extensive working meeting with Indian Vice President CP Radhakrishnan in New Delhi to explore diverse investment opportunities.

Mashatile observed that India's advanced capabilities in digital innovation, manufacturing, and medical technology provide practical pathways to uplift both nations' economies. He also highlighted South Africa's own immense potential for future Indian investments in renewable energy, mining, information technology, and infrastructure.

The high-level South African delegation concluded its Hyderabad visit on an optimistic note. Leaders from both sides agreed that exchanging practical governance insights and establishing robust pharmaceutical supply chains would significantly accelerate public health security and shared economic progress across both regions.

# KC Venugopal chairs crucial PAC meeting

**India's PAC will review defense audit lapses and skill development programs, while other parliamentary panels assess the economy and address CBSE examination glitches**

**NEW DELHI**

The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament (PAC) will convene a vital meeting within the Parliament premises to review major defense and skill development reports.

Led by Congress MP KC Venugopal, the committee is scheduled to examine serious audit findings presented by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

A major highlight of the agenda includes taking oral evidence from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Officials will face questioning regarding a performance audit of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

Additionally, the high-profile watchdog panel will debate production delays of the upgraded "DHANUSH" gun system and a staggering financial loss of ₹62.10 crore caused by defective ammunition supplied to the Indian Army.

Simultaneously, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance will discuss India's overall economic landscape. Top representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Chief Economic Adviser are expected to brief lawmakers on the current general economic situation of the country.

These meetings follow intense scrutiny by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, which recently grilled CBSE officials over technical glitches. Lawmakers demanded strict accountability for systemic lapses after students faced severe difficulties with the On-Screen-Marking system during the recent Class 12 examinations. The education panel also reviewed the controversial implementation of the three-language formula for Class 9 and 10 students, pushing the board to resolve ongoing portal errors and answer sheet discrepancies quickly.

*The NIA raided former TMC MLA Saokat Molla's residence regarding a fatal pre-election bomb blast investigation in Bengal*

## NIA raids former TMC MLA Saokat Molla

**SOUTH BAMUNIA**

A specialized team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted extensive search and questioning operations at the residence of former Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Saokat Molla.

The morning raid took place in the South Bamunia area of Bhangar, attracting widespread political and public attention.

The federal anti-terror agency's sudden action is directly linked to an ongoing investigation into a fatal bomb blast. The explosion occurred just days before the West Bengal Assembly elections, claiming the life of one individual. Following intense demands for a central probe, the Union Home Ministry handed the case over to the NIA. The agency has already arrested several suspects, including prominent local TMC leader Wahidul Islam.

As investigators combed through Molla's house for evidence, his wife and daughter were seen arriving at the premises. This high-profile raid follows a broader crackdown by the anti-terror agency in West Bengal. On April 27, the NIA took over another critical case involving the discovery of a massive stockpile of crude bombs, operating under a suspected terror angle.

State police had initially recovered 79 jute-tied crude bombs hidden inside an abandoned house near a village burial ground in Uttar Kashipur. Due to the severe danger posed to human life and property, the central agency re-registered the FIR under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Explosive Substances Act. The NIA is currently checking for potential operational links between these hidden bomb stockpiles and political functionaries in the region.

## ₹9.27 cr highway fraud: ED arrests Jai Gandhi

**RAIPUR**

The Enforcement Directorate arrested Jai Prakash Gandhi for a 9.27-crore fraud involving the Bharatmala Highway project. Following his arrest under money laundering laws, a special court granted the agency three days of custody for questioning. Investigators reveal that Gandhi conspired with public servants to buy highway land and split it into tiny parcels. This trick allowed him to claim highly inflated compensation rates from the government. He illegally pocketed 9.83 crores instead of the rightful 56 lakhs, later laundering the profits into shares and mutual funds before recent raids exposed the scheme.

## Ranchi protests erupt after youth's murder

**RANCHI**

Angry residents blocked roads and burned tires at Makhmandro Chowk, protesting the mob killing of 25-year-old Rohit Mirdha. Police managed to calm the crowd after arresting two main suspects, Indrajit Sahu and Vikas Sahu, while searching for a third.

The victim, a local politician's nephew, died from severe injuries after being beaten in Lehna village. While the victim's father claims the attack stems from an ongoing land dispute, a counter-complaint alleges the youth had misbehaved with a village woman. Officials are currently investigating all angles of the case.

## Odisha unveils grand strategy for coastal safety

**BHUBANESWAR**

Odisha Director General of Police Y.B. Khurania inaugurated a high-level, multi-agency coastal security seminar.

The crucial day-long workshop brought together 18 major organizations, including the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, port authorities, and fisheries departments, to draft a highly advanced maritime defense framework for the state.

During the conference, Khurania emphasized that coastal security directly impacts India's internal safety, economic development, and maritime trade. Because Odisha's 574.7-kilometer coastline hosts major economic hubs like Paradip, Dhamra, and Gopalpur ports, protecting these regions remains a top government priority. Currently, over 700 trained police personnel man the state's 18 specialized Marine Police Stations.

Highlighting financial commitments, the DGP revealed that Odisha allocated up to Rs 200 crore over the past two years to upgrade surveillance infrastructure. The marine wing currently utilizes 15 Fast Interceptor Boats, drones, and hired trawlers for deep-sea patrolling, while installing CCTV networks at vital fish landing centers.

To revolutionize future operations, Khurania announced plans to acquire 10 more interceptor boats, modular jetties, and advanced anti-drone systems. A state-of-the-art Command and Control Centre in Bhubaneswar will soon integrate live video feeds from patrol boats, drones, and marine stations alongside central intelligence data.

The state is also utilizing the NABHMITRA application to track fishing vessels and has hired retired Navy and Coast Guard officers for expert guidance. Khurania expressed absolute confidence that these tech upgrades will transform Odisha's coastal wing into one of India's finest maritime security units within two years.

## EAGLE force smashes international Thai drug syndicate

**HYDERABAD**

In a major crackdown, Telangana's elite anti-drug wing, the EAGLE Force, has smashed a massive international smuggling syndicate. The gang illegally trafficked premium hydroponic cannabis, known as "OG weed," from Thailand into India.

Police arrested ten key members, including the mastermind, Hemang Pramod Keluskar from Mumbai. The investigation exposed a highly organized network spanning multiple Indian states. The syndicate operated a nightclub in Pattaya, Thailand, using it as a hub to target wealthy Indian tourists, including top film personalities.

Taking advantage of Thailand's relaxed cannabis laws, the kingpin's family leased cultivation chambers to grow the drugs under the guise of medical use. They then recruited around 300 "mule" carriers to smuggle the contraband into India. To dodge customs, the smugglers constantly switched arrival airports, shifting between Hyderabad, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Surat, and Kolkata.

The breakthrough came in April when officers intercepted carriers at Hyderabad's international airport, recovering over 25 kilograms of high-grade cannabis. Investigations revealed that the gang exclusively accepted cash payments within India. They then channeled these illegal profits back to Thailand through secret networks to fund future drug operations.

**Government of Karnataka**
**DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY**
**Office of the Senior Geologist, Uttara Kannada, Karwar – 581 306**
**Phone:08382-227395**

No. DMG/UKD/GR-02/2026-27 Date:04-06-2026

**e-AUCTION PUBLICATION**

Invites the e-applications for auction of Disposal Of Export Quality Granite Blocks (Ornamental Stone) Stocked At Karwar Port Area, Bythakhola Village in Uttara Kannada district. Interested persons/companies/firm/agencies can apply through KPP portal Auction No:**DMG/2026-27/AUCTION67** e-Auction documents and annexures can be downloaded from the KPP portal website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for uploading the Annexures and submission of e-application is 19-06-2026. Live bidding is scheduled from:29-06-2026 to 02-07-2026 at 10:30 AM to 17:30 PM. Application and Bids shall be submitted through KPP portal only.

Sd/-
Senior Geologist/e-Auction
Inviting Authority
Department of Mines & Geology, Karwar

**Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chikkamagaluru District, Chikkamagaluru.**
**District Urban Development Cell, Chikkamagaluru**
E-Mail:- ka.chikkamagaluru.dudc@gmail.com Tel: 08262-239010
1115470: File No. DUDCCK-ENGGOMISC/4/2026-ENG Date: 03.06.2026

**E-Procurement Re-Tender Notice**

Tender is invited subject to conditions through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from eligible class contractors registered in PWD for implementation of below mentioned works under Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Scheme for the year 2025-26. Interested contractors can submit Tenders subject to conditions.

| Sl. No | Indent No. | Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs) | Reservation | E.M.D. Amount (in Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53163/CALL-2 | 100.00 | General | 42,350.00 |

Cost of Tender Form as per e-procurement, Time Period: 06 Months (Excluding Rainy Season)

**(1)** Last date for submission of Tender in e-procurement portal: 19.06.2026 up to 17.00 Hrs. **(2)** Date of opening Technical Bid: 20.06.2026 at 17.10 Hrs. **(3)** Date of opening Financial Bid: 23.06.2026 at 11.00 Hrs. Further information can be obtained during office hours and in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For any reason, if there are changes, they will be published only in e-portal. Will not be published in newspapers. Contractors should view in KPP Portal.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Chikkamagaluru.**

DIPR/ckm/ksmca/26-27/44/312

**CHOKING DOLA'S CARTEL CASH**

## *ED raids Dola's network, seizes ₹1.33 cr*

**MUMBAI**

In a major crackdown on the drug underworld, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized cash and gold worth ₹1.33 crore after raiding 21 locations linked to notorious drug lord Salim Ismail Dola.

The coordinated raids from the last few days, targeted various properties across Mumbai in Maharashtra, as well as Surat, Ankleshwar, and Rajkot in Gujarat. Dola, an alleged close associate of the infamous Dawood Ibrahim gang, was recently extradited from Turkey to face trial in India.

According to officials, the massive operation focused on dismantling the financial backbone of his transnational drug trafficking syndicate.

The ED searched every corner of the illicit business, hitting chemical suppliers, drug manufacturers, hawala operators, and individuals holding dummy properties bought with dirty money. Alongside the local cash and gold bars, investigators recovered $2,200 in foreign currency. Crucially, the agency also uncovered official documents detailing luxury real estate investments worth several crores of rupees spread across India and Dubai.

Authorities initiated this money-laundering probe following multiple police cases filed against Dola for smuggling banned substances like Mephedrone (MD). Investigations revealed that Dola operated a highly organized criminal network that handled everything from raw chemical procurement to the clandestine manufacturing and international distribution of synthetic drugs.

The agency stated that this operation has severely crippled the syndicate's financial network, making it difficult for them to layer their illegal profits or fund future smuggling operations.

Government of Karnataka
**DISTRICT HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OFFICERS OFFICE**
**KALABURAGI** Tel number :- 08472278619 Mail: dhogulbarga@gmail.com

NO.EST-3/CR/188/2024-25 Date:02-06-2026

**:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::**

1) Tender Publication Number and Date: **No :Est/C3/CR/188/2024-25,** 2) Estimated amount received for tender : Approximate **Rs. 2,35,00,000/- (Rupees Two crore thirty-five lakh only),** 3) EMD amount Rs.: **Rs. 3,52,500.00/-** (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty Two thousand five hundred rupees Only), 4) Starting and closing date and time for submission of tender envelopes through e-portal: **Start Date: 04-06-2026 to 16-06-2026 Time: 4.00 PM,** 5) Date and time of opening of technical envelopes of e-portal: **Date: 17.06.2026 at 4.30 pm** 6) Date and time of opening of financial envelope : Date: **18.06.2026 at 4.30 pm**, 7) Office address and telephone number to contact for more information: District Health and Family Welfare Officers Office Kalaburagi E-mail: dhogulbarga@gmail.com Tel.No: 08472-278619

**Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer Kalaburagi**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/184/KSMC&A/2026-27

## QUICK READ

### Earthquake shakes populated areas in Myanmar

**NAYPYIDAW**

A 3.9 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar at a depth of 126 kilometers. Fortunately, no immediate damage or injuries have been reported from the tremor. The country faces frequent seismic activity because it sits directly atop four major, shifting tectonic plates. Experts warn that major geological fault lines run near heavily populated cities, including Yangon and Mandalay. This unique geography puts nearly half of the nation's population at a continuous risk for larger quakes. Residents in these crowded urban zones remain on high alert as officials monitor the unstable ground.

### Deadly fire rages through old age home in SL

**COLOMBO**

A devastating fire swept through an elderly care home in Sri Lanka, killing twelve people and injuring seven others. The tragic blaze broke out at the Mawpiya Sevana home in Kalutara, located southeast of the capital city. Ten elderly residents tragically died at the scene, while two more passed away after being rushed to a nearby hospital. Following the horrific incident, local authorities quickly arrested the facility's owner.

# Neighborhood first: INS Airavat docks in Colombo

INS Airavat's Colombo port visit strengthens India-Sri Lanka maritime ties and defense cooperation under New Delhi's "Neighbourhood First" policy.

**COLOMBO**

An Indian naval ship, INS Airavat, arrived at the Colombo port for a routine stop to refuel and restock. This visit highlights the growing friendship and maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

Led by Commander IP Patil, the ship and its crew received a warm welcome from the Sri Lankan Navy. The visit is part of India's ongoing "Neighbourhood First" policy, which focuses on building peaceful and supportive relationships with its closest neighbors.

During their stay on the island, the Indian crew members will take part in several joint professional activities. The Sri Lankan Navy has also organized special events to help sailors from both nations build stronger connections and friendships. Additionally, the Indian crew will get a chance to explore the country, with guided tours of local historic sites and popular tourist attractions before they head back out to sea.

This naval visit follows another high-level military interaction last month. In May, India's Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, traveled to Sri Lanka for a three-day official tour. During his visit, he met with top Sri Lankan defense officials to discuss security cooperation and paid tribute to fallen soldiers at the Indian Peace Keeping Force monument.

Both the recent air force visit and the arrival of INS Airavat show how closely the two neighboring nations are working together. These frequent exchanges help ensure peace, safety, and stronger defense ties across the Indian Ocean region.

# Separatists move base from Canada to Azerbaijan

**Pro-Khalistan groups are shifting operations from Canada to Azerbaijan, backed by a Pak-linked alliance, prompting Indian warnings about emerging transnational security and organized crime threats.**

**NEW DELHI**

Following a political leadership change in Canada, pro-Khalistan separatist groups are shifting their operations to Azerbaijan to escape growing international pressure, intelligence sources revealed.

Under Canada's new Prime Minister, Mark Carney, both India and Canada now view Khalistani extremism as a shared national security threat. This has forced these organizations to abandon their traditional safe havens in Western nations and seek new international platforms to keep their movement alive.

Security officials have traced this new base to the Baku Initiative Group (BIG), a think tank backed by the Azerbaijani government. Originally formed to counter French colonialism, BIG has recently started hosting large conferences focused on anti-India narratives. Notable events in Baku have drawn global separatist leaders and even a Pakistani provincial minister, who openly honored deceased figures linked to terrorism.

Experts from Disinfo Lab, research group tracking information warfare, point out that Azerbaijan has almost no Sikh population. They suggest the sudden focus on this issue points to a broader, state-backed political agenda driven by an emerging alliance between Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey. Intelligence officials believe Pakistan is actively coordinating this strategy to help separate groups reshape their image from violent extremists into human rights activists.

Indian authorities warn that Azerbaijan may be repeating the mistakes of Western nations. Officials emphasize that these networks often start with political narratives but eventually introduce organized crime, including narcotics and extortion, into the host countries they infiltrate.

*President Lee Jae-myung pledged cooperation with newly elected local leaders after mixed election results and widespread ballot shortages.*

# PREZ LEE HUMBLY ACCEPTS LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

**SEOUL**

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung announced that he will humbly accept the public sentiment shown in the country's recent local elections. He promised to work closely with all newly elected local leaders, regardless of their political parties.

The statement came after a major voting day where President Lee's ruling Democratic Party won most of the available seats across the nation. However, the victory was mixed, as the party failed to win the highly prized race for mayor of Seoul. On a positive note for the ruling party, they managed to win the mayoral race in Busan, which is traditionally a conservative stronghold.

President Lee emphasized that despite fierce political rivalries during the campaign, all parties must now act as partners to protect the public and build a better future. He urged political leaders to unite to improve the daily lives of citizens and promote national unity.

The election was also marked by an unusual controversy involving a severe shortage of ballot papers at several voting locations in Seoul. This shortage sparked angry protests, with some citizens blocking polling stations and demanding a revote due to fraud concerns. President Lee offered a rare criticism of the National Election Commission, calling the mistake unacceptable for a democratic nation.

## Israeli strikes continue despite Lebanon truce

**JERUSALEM**

Israel launched fresh military strikes in southern Lebanon, just hours after Washington announced a newly negotiated ceasefire agreement between the two neighboring nations.

The US-brokered deal requires the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah to completely stop its attacks and withdraw all fighters from the southern region.

While Lebanese diplomats called the agreement historic, Hezbollah was not a direct party to the Washington talks and has yet to comment on the truce.

## Migrants flee into mountains amid S. African violence

**KLEINMOND**

A sudden surge of anti-immigrant violence across South Africa's Western Cape Province has forced hundreds of African migrants to abandon their homes and flee for survival into nearby mountains.

The targeted harassment intensified over the weekend when angry mobs began conducting hostile, door-to-door searches in multiple coastal towns. Armed with sticks and knives, the protesters ordered foreign nationals to leave the country immediately.

In response to the imminent danger, many immigrants from Mozambique and Malawi spent terrifying nights hiding in the woods and sand dunes before seeking refuge in local community centers.

The Mozambican government reported that five of its citizens were recently killed during related xenophobic attacks in the nearby town of Mossel Bay, where dozens of homes were burned down.

Currently, around 100 displaced people are sheltering inside the Kleinmond town hall. Local officials noted that while many of the targeted families are residing in the country legally, they are now too traumatized to stay and are requesting emergency evacuation assistance.

# N. Korea's Kim Jong Un inspects new nuclear plant

**SEOUL**

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited a newly completed nuclear material production facility, promising to expand the country's atomic weapons arsenal at an exponential rate.

Accompanied by top ruling party officials, Kim reviewed the facility to give special operational guidelines to his military commanders and scientists. State media reports withheld the exact location of the new site.

Experts believe North Korea already operates uranium enrichment plants in Yongbyon, Kusong, and Kangson, making this potentially a fourth hidden location.

During a special high-level meeting at the plant, Kim claimed that the nation's capacity to produce weapons-grade nuclear material has more than doubled over the last five years.

He praised local scientists for the achievement, calling the opening of the facility a historic milestone in upgrading national defense capabilities.

# Indian Ambassador Doraiswami meets Afghan envoy in Beijing

**BEIJING**

Indian and Afghan officials met in China this week to discuss expanding cooperation and strengthening the long-standing civilizational ties between the two neighboring countries.

The high-level meeting took place in Beijing between India's Ambassador Vikram Doraiswami and the Afghan envoy to China, Asadullah Bilal Karimi. According to reports, both diplomats shared positive views on their shared history and welcomed ongoing efforts to deepen partnership in areas of mutual interest.

The diplomatic talks follow a series of humanitarian efforts by New Delhi to assist the Afghan people. Just last month, India sent 20 tonnes of critical raw materials for vaccines to support Afghanistan's child immunization program. India has also consistently delivered emergency disaster relief, including hygiene kits, blankets, and temporary shelters, to help families affected by recent floods and earthquakes.

The meeting also comes amid heightened regional tensions. At a recent United Nations session, India strongly criticized Pakistan for conducting airstrikes that hit a medical facility in Kabul, resulting in civilian deaths. Indian representatives at the UN condemned the cross-border violence and reaffirmed India's solidarity with Afghanistan during difficult times.

While political dynamics in the region remain complex, this latest meeting in Beijing highlights India's continued commitment to engaging with Afghanistan. By focusing on humanitarian aid, health support, and diplomatic dialogue, both nations are working to keep their historical relationship active and stable for the future.

## Missing Sherpa survives a week without food, oxygen

**KATHMANDU**

A veteran Nepali Sherpa guide has been miraculously rescued from Mount Everest after surviving nearly a week alone on the frozen slopes without food, water, or supplemental oxygen.

Dawa Sherpa, 52, went missing on May 29 while descending between Camp III and Camp IV after a failed summit attempt with a Polish client. While the client safely returned to base camp, it remains unclear how the two became separated. They were among the last remaining teams on the world's highest peak as the treacherous spring climbing season officially came to a close.


**NAME CHANGE**

I hitherto known as **GOVINDAPPA** S/O SHIVAPPA, R/o- Parasuramadevarakote Dharampura Chitradurga Hiriyur Karnataka- 577546, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **GOPI.**

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, **Mrs. Sophia Dawres Shrikumar,** holder of Passport No. A8937387, have changed my name to **Mrs. Sophia Dawres. V.** and my address from No. 3, Old Assay Office Compound, New Electric Colony, Oorgaum, K.G.F. to No. 503, Old Italian Mess, Oorgaum, K.G.F. – 563120. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by the new name and address for all purposes. Vide Affidavit dated: 27/05/2025 Sworn before **N.Srinivasa,** Advocate & Notary, K.G.F.

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, **Dinesh Kumar S.,** residing at No. 503, Old Italian Mess, Oorgaum Post, K.G.F. – 563120, hereby declare that my name was incorrectly recorded as **Theeban Dinesh Kumar** in my Baptism Certificate. My correct name is **Dinesh Kumar S.** Henceforth, I shall be known as **Dinesh Kumar S.** for all purposes. Vide Affidavit dated: 27/05/2025 Sworn before **N.Srinivasa,** Advocate & Notary, K.G.F.

**ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ**

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560058, ಲಗ್ಗೆರೆ, ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿನಗರ, 2ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ, 3ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ, ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ. ಸ್ಕೂಲ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಮನೆ ನಂ. 03, ಈ ವಿಳಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಶ್ರೀ.ಶ್ರೀಧರ್.ಕೆ ರವರ ಧರ್ಮಪತ್ನಿಯಾದ ಸುಮಾರು 36 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸುಳ್ಳ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ. ಹೇಮ.ಬಿ (ಆಧಾರ್ ನಂ. 9794 0851 4464) ಆದ ನಾನು ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪೂರ್ವಕವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ:

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ದಾಸನಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಕಿತ್ತನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯ್ತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಅವೇರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಅಸೆಸ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್. 25(ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತೈದು) ಖಾತೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ನಂ. ನಂ. 68 'ರಲ್ಲಿರುವ 69ನೇ ನಂಬರಾಗಿ ನನಗೆ ನೇ ನಂಬರಿನ ನಿವೇಶನ ತಾ:04/03/2017 ರಂದು 1ನೇ ಪುಸ್ತಕದ, ಡಿಎಸ್‌ಪಿಡಿ238 ನೇ ನಂಬರಿನ ಸಿಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿರುವ ಡಿಎಸ್‌ಪಿ–I–07521–2016–17 ನೇ ನಂಬರಿಗೆ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಶ್ರೀ.ಟಿ.ವೆಂಕಟೇಶಯ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳಾದ ದಿವ್ಯ. ಪ್ರವೀಣ್ ಗೌಡ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರೇಗೌಡ ರವರಿಂದ ನನ್ನ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾನುಭವಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿರುವ ಸ್ವತ್ತಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ರೀತಿಯಾಗಿ ಬಂದಿರುವ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿಗೆ ನಾನೇ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಹಕ್ಕುದಾರನಾಗಿ ಅನುಭವಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬರುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಸರಿಯಿಷ್ಟೆ.

ಆದೇ ರೀತಿ ಹೇಮ.ಬಿ ಆದ ನಾನು ತಾ: 30–07–2025 ರಂದು ಸುಮಾರು 12 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಜೆರಾಕ್ಸ್ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವಾಗ ಸದರಿ ಈ ಕ್ರಯಪತ್ರವು ಕಳೆದುಹೋಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಪೋಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪೋಲೀಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು 28/05/2026 ರಂದು ಈ ಲಾಸ್ಟ್ ರಿಪೋರ್ಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 2226025/2026 ಅನ್ನು ನೀಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಮಾಣೀಕರಿಸಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಈ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ನೋಟರಿ ರವರ ಸಮಕ್ಷಮ ನೋಟರಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿ, ಡಿಎಸ್‌ಪಿ–I–07521–2016–17 ನೇ ನಂಬರಿನ ಅಸಲು ಪತ್ರವು ಕಳೆದುಹೋಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಧೃಡೀಕರಿಸಲು ಈ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಸಿ ಸಂಬಂದಪಟ್ಟವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅಂಶಗಳು ಸತ್ಯವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ನನ್ನ ಮುಂದೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಮಾಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

**Hena. B** ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಮಾಡಿದವರು,

**K.S. BAMMAPPANAVAR** B.A., LL.B. ADVOCATE & NOTARY No.B-416, KHB Diamond Apartment, Kommaghatta Roau K. S. Town, Bengalur

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Mohammed Kadari Urf Saqlain Firozabad S/o Hameed Kadari Firozabad R/o Langar Bazar Bijapur, Bijapur, Karnataka - 586101, have changed my name to Saqlain Firozabad.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **SALEEM PASHA** S/O ABDUL BASHIR, R/o- No 13/7 1st Cross Hosahalli Main Road Padarayanapura Bangalore, Karnataka- 560026, have changed the name of my minor daughter **S MAHIRA** alias **S SADIYA** aged 3 years and she shall hereafter be known as **S SADIYA.**

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **KARTHIKA B R** S/o. Ramasubbareddy B S Resident of Batlahalli, Batlahalli Post Chikkaballapur -563123 Karnataka, have changed my name to **KARTHIK B R** vide affidavit dated: 04.06.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **ASMAH** W/o. Shabeer Ahmed Naskar, Resident of No. 1052, Imperial Solitair Flat No 202, 5th Main HSR Layout 7th Sector, Bengaluru -560102, Karnataka, have changed my name to **ASMAH SHABEER AHMED** vide affidavit dated: 04.06.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **MAHALINGESH H S** S/O B SIDDARAJU, R/o- Huchammandoddi Manchegowdanapalya, Distt-Ramanagar, Karnataka- 562109, have changed the name of my minor daughter ITISHREE alias **UTHAMI GOWDA H M** aged 1 years and she shall hereafter be known as UTHAMI GOWDA H M.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **ARSHIYA KOWSER,** W/o Mansoor, resident of Mutton Market Road, Sharabh Munishamappa Badavane, Hosakote, Bengaluru-562114, have changed my name to **ARSHIYA KOWSAR,** vide affidavit dated: 02.06.2026, before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bangalore

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **YASMEEN LIYAKAT ALI SHAIKH,** W/o Thanavir, resident of No. 16/69, 14th Cross, Mysore Road, Bapujinagar, Bengaluru-560026, have changed my name to **YASMIN SHAIKH**, vide affidavit dated: 04.06.2026, before Notary A.IDINABBA, Bengaluru

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Manoharan Pathiyarathodi Narayanan, S/o Narayanan Murugan Pathiyarathodi, R/o #157, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main, 7th Cross, Talakavery Lay out, Basava Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560037, have changed my name to Manu Pathiyarath.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

It is for general information that I, PARVATI BASAVAKUMAR HORADI alias TORAGALPARVATI alias PARVATHI alias ROOPASHRI MALLIKARJUN TORGAL D/o MALLIKARJUN TORGAL Ex. W/o BASAVAKUMAR HORADI, R/o C-7/A, M.L.B.C.Colony, Ramdurg, Belgaum, Karnataka-591123, declare that I got divorce from my husband vide Court Decree M.C.No.2222/2024 dt. 14-06-2024, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PARVATI MALLIKARJUN TORGAL.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, MULLA SHIRAJ ISUB (old name), Son of YUSUF KHUDABUDDIN MULLA, a resident of NO 194, 2ND FLR, 2ND CROSS, JEEVAN KENDRA LAYOUT, CAMBRIDGE ROAD CROSS, ULSOOR, BENGALURU 560008, KARNATAKA, INDIA, have changed my name to SHIRAJ YUSUF MULLA (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 04-06-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Shetra Lata D/o Kotreshappa W/o Mrutyunjaya R/o # Ward No 6, Holalu Ballari Holalu, Karnataka - 583217, have changed my name to Usharani Halavagila.

**NAME CHANGE**

I hitherto known as **NAVITHA RAMESH** W/O RAMESH BILAGI, R/o- NO 45 Indira Gandhi Street Main Udaya Nagar Bangalore, Karnataka-560016, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **NAVITHA RAMESH BILAGI.**

# Kohli ruled out of Afghanistan ODIs with hamstring injury

## INDIA STAR'S ABSENCE DEALS MAJOR BLOW AHEAD OF AFGHANISTAN SERIES OPENER

**NEW DELHI**

Indian batting icon Virat Kohli has been ruled out of the upcoming three-match One-Day International series against Afghanistan after suffering a hamstring injury, dealing a significant setback to the hosts ahead of the series beginning on June 13.

A Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) source confirmed that Kohli will miss the entire series due to the injury. The matches are scheduled to be played in Dharamsala on June 13, Lucknow on June 17, and Chennai on June 20.

The 37-year-old recently enjoyed one of the finest seasons of his career in the Indian Premier League, guiding Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a second successive title. Kohli finished the tournament with 675 runs, including a century and five half-centuries, and struck the winning runs in the final against Gujarat Titans.

Having retired from T20 Internationals and Test cricket, Kohli is now focused solely on the ODI format. Despite reducing his international workload, he remains one of the sport's biggest attractions and rarely misses matches due to injury because of his renowned fitness standards.

His absence is expected to reduce the spotlight on the Afghanistan series, which would have provided fans another opportunity to watch one of India's greatest batters in action.

Meanwhile, there is also uncertainty surrounding the availability of India captain Rohit Sharma. Rohit was included in the squad subject to fitness after battling a hamstring issue during the IPL season.

The fitness of both Kohli and Rohit continues to be closely monitored as India begins preparations for the 2027 ICC ODI World Cup in South Africa. Since retiring from Test cricket last year, speculation has persisted over how long the veteran duo will continue in the 50-over format. India's selectors are expected to assess Kohli's recovery before finalising plans for future international assignments.

# Cummins may skip IPL 2027 to prioritise Ashes and WC

**Australia captain eyes workload management ahead of packed international schedule ahead**

**SYDNEY**

Australia captain Pat Cummins has indicated that he could skip the 2027 Indian Premier League season as he prepares for a demanding international calendar that includes the Ashes, the ICC World Test Championship cycle and the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Cummins returned home after representing Sunrisers Hyderabad during the latter stages of the IPL season, which ended with the team's elimination in the playoffs. The fast bowler is now focused on recovering and preparing for Australia's upcoming home Test series against Bangladesh in August.

The Australian skipper faces a gruelling schedule over the next 18 months, with the team set to play 21 Tests in a 12-month period. The fixtures include challenging away series against South Africa, India and England, all of which will be crucial in the race for a place in the next World Test Championship final.

Speaking about his future plans, Cummins suggested that participation in the IPL could become difficult amid such a demanding workload. He stressed that Test cricket and the 2027 ODI World Cup remain his top priorities and hinted that a break before the Ashes in England may be necessary.

Australia have not won an Ashes series in England since 2021 and are expected to place significant emphasis on reclaiming the urn. Cummins noted that a lengthy Test series in India before the Ashes could leave him needing additional rest.

The workload of Australia's experienced pace trio — Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood — is also expected to be managed carefully. Team management could rotate bowlers during a home Test series against New Zealand and other assignments to keep them fresh for major tournaments and marquee series.

Despite the challenges ahead, Cummins said he was feeling refreshed after recent injury setbacks and remained excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. He described the next 18 months as a potentially rewarding period for Australian cricket as the team targets success across formats.

*Over 1,300 cricketers enter auction pool for Telangana's franchise league*

# Siraj, Tilak set to headline inaugural TG20 player auction in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**

The Hyderabad cricket fraternity is gearing up for a landmark moment as the inaugural TG20 Player Auction is scheduled to be held on June 7, paving the way for Telangana's first-ever franchise-based T20 cricket league.

Organised by the Hyderabad Cricket Association, the auction will take place at the Princess Convention Centre in Ramoji Film City and marks a major step towards the launch of the TG20 league, which is set to begin on June 21.

More than 1,300 HCA-registered cricketers will go under the hammer as eight franchises assemble their squads for the tournament. The auction pool will be led by Telangana's international stars Mohammed Siraj and Tilak Varma, who are expected to attract intense bidding from team owners.

Several established domestic players, including Rohit Rayudu, Rahul Buddhi, CV Milind and Tanmay Agarwal, are also part of the auction pool. Emerging talents such as India Under-19 player Aaron George and members of Telangana's Vinoo Mankad Trophy-winning squad will further add depth to the competition.

The inaugural edition of TG20 will feature eight teams — Hyderabad e-Champions, Pranava Ranga Reddy Risers, Warangal Warriors, Medak Falcons, Anurag Nalgonda Knights, Karimnagar Diamonds, Palamuru Strikers and Anvita Khammam Aces.

Each franchise will have a purse of ₹60 lakh and will be required to spend at least ₹54 lakh while building squads of up to 20 players. In a move aimed at promoting cricket across the state, every team must include a minimum of four district players in its squad, with at least two district cricketers featuring in the playing XI.

Former India cricketer Ambati Rayudu, who chairs the HCA Cricket Operations Committee, played a key role in organising player trials and talent identification programmes.

The auction will be conducted by renowned sports presenter Charu Sharma and streamed live on JioHotstar, allowing cricket fans to witness the formation of Telangana's newest cricketing spectacle.

# Sports Ministry begins process to set up National Sports Tribunal

**NEW DELHI**

The Union Sports Ministry has initiated the process of establishing the National Sports Tribunal (NST), a long-awaited body aimed at ensuring faster and more effective resolution of sports-related disputes in India.

In a notification issued, the ministry invited applications for two positions in the tribunal and fixed June 18 as the deadline for submissions. The tribunal will be headquartered in New Delhi and is expected to play a crucial role in handling disputes related to sports governance, administration, athlete selection and elections within National Sports Federations.

According to the ministry, eligible candidates should be persons of eminence with extensive knowledge and experience in sports, public administration and law. The selection process will be overseen by a Search-cum-Selection Committee headed by either the Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court judge nominated by the Chief Justice.

The committee will also include the Sports Secretary and the Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice. Applications will be scrutinised based on qualifications, experience and suitability, following which shortlisted candidates will be invited for personal interaction before final recommendations are made.

The tribunal is expected to significantly reduce the burden on civil courts, where sports-related litigation often remains pending for years. According to Sports Ministry estimates, more than 350 cases involving athlete selection, federation elections and administrative disputes are currently being heard in courts across the country.

# Mourinho poised for Real Madrid return if Perez wins club election

**MADRID**

Veteran football manager José Mourinho has indicated his willingness to return to Real Madrid should club president Florentino Pérez secure re-election in the upcoming presidential vote.

The development emerged through a brief campaign video shared on the official Instagram account of Pérez's reelection campaign. In the clip, Mourinho appeared wearing a Real Madrid shirt and responded with a simple "Yes" when asked about a potential return to the Santiago Bernabéu.

The announcement generated significant attention as it was released almost simultaneously with rival presidential candidate Enrique Riquelme preparing to unveil a major signing during a television appearance.

If Pérez is reelected, Mourinho would make a sensational return to Real Madrid 13 years after leaving the club in 2013. The Portuguese coach first took charge of Los Blancos in 2010 and spent three seasons at the Spanish giants.

During his first spell in Madrid, Mourinho guided the club to several major honours, including the 2011-12 La Liga title, the Copa del Rey and the Spanish Super Cup. His tenure was marked by intense rivalry with Barcelona and a fierce competitive spirit that helped Real Madrid challenge domestic and European rivals.

A potential reunion comes at a crucial moment for the club. Real Madrid have endured two consecutive seasons without winning a major trophy, increasing pressure on the club hierarchy to deliver a fresh direction and restore success.

While Mourinho remains one of football's most decorated and high-profile managers, his possible appointment would be viewed as a bold move by Pérez. The Portuguese coach has often divided opinion due to his outspoken style and demanding approach, but his track record of winning trophies continues to command respect across the football world.

# SC disposes WFI plea against Vinesh Phogat trial participation as infructuous

**NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Thursday disposed of a petition filed by the Wrestling Federation of India challenging a Delhi High Court order that allowed wrestler Vinesh Phogat to participate in selection trials for the 2026 Asian Games, holding that the matter had become infructuous due to subsequent developments.

A bench comprising Justices P. S. Narasimha and Aravind Kumar observed that the issue no longer required adjudication as the selection trials had already taken place and Phogat had participated in them.

The court clarified that it was not endorsing or reiterating the findings and observations made by the Delhi High Court while passing its earlier order. It also stated that all legal questions arising from the dispute were being left open for consideration in future proceedings.

During the hearing, senior advocate D.N. Goburdhun, appearing for the WFI, informed the bench that Phogat had been permitted to participate in the trials but was unsuccessful in securing selection. He further argued that certain observations made by the High Court regarding decisions of the federation, including references to alleged mala fide conduct, should not remain on record as the matter was still pending before a single-judge bench.

The Supreme Court, however, declined to examine those observations at this stage and reiterated that the federation's appeal had effectively lost relevance following the completion of the selection process.

The legal dispute stemmed from a Delhi High Court order dated May 22, which permitted Phogat to participate in the selection trials despite objections raised by the federation. Subsequently, on May 29, the Supreme Court had also allowed the wrestler to take part in the trials conducted on May 30 and 31 for the upcoming Asian Games.

With the trials concluded and the selection process completed, the apex court ruled that the WFI's challenge no longer survived for consideration and formally disposed of the plea, while keeping all related legal issues open for future adjudication if required.

# Sabalenka says she wanted to quit tennis after French Open collapse

**PARIS**

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka admitted she felt like quitting tennis after suffering a dramatic collapse in her French Open quarterfinal against Russia's Diana Shnaider.

Sabalenka squandered a commanding position before losing 3-6, 7-5, 6-0 at French Open, ending her hopes of winning a maiden Roland Garros title. The Belarusian appeared in complete control after taking the first set and building a 4-1 lead in the second. She was also just two points away from victory while serving for the match at 5-4. However, the momentum shifted dramatically as Shnaider mounted a remarkable comeback. Sabalenka lost 12 of the final 13 games, struggling with unforced errors and growing frustration in windy conditions on Court Philippe-Chatrier. Following the defeat, an emotional Sabalenka admitted the loss had left her mentally drained.

"Just want to quit tennis right now," she told reporters, before adding that she hoped to recover mentally in the coming days.

The defeat drew comparisons with Sabalenka's loss to Coco Gauff in last year's French Open final, where she also won the opening set before losing control of the match amid a series of costly mistakes.

Shnaider, competing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal, remained composed throughout the comeback and said she focused only on playing one point at a time against the tournament favourite. The upset continued a trend of surprise results at this year's French Open. Defending champion Coco Gauff and four-time winner Iga Swiatek had already been eliminated earlier in the tournament, while several top men's contenders also exited unexpectedly.

# Sudharsan, Padikkal in race for India's crucial No. 3 Test spot

**MULLANPUR**

India's search for a long-term No. 3 batter in Test cricket appears to have narrowed to a two-way contest between Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal ahead of the one-off Test against Afghanistan, with assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate promising that whoever gets the role will be given an extended run in the position.

The No. 3 slot has remained one of the biggest challenges for India since the departure of former mainstay Cheteshwar Pujara. Attempts to fill the vacancy have produced mixed results, including a stint by current Test captain Shubman Gill, who scored 972 runs in 16 matches at the position before moving to No. 4.

With Gill settled lower down the order, the team management is now looking to establish a permanent solution at first drop as India begin a new World Test Championship cycle.

Padikkal enters the contest in outstanding form following a prolific domestic season and an impressive IPL campaign. The left-hander amassed 543 runs at an average above 60 in the Ranji Trophy and followed it up with strong performances in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. He also played a key role in Royal Challengers Bengaluru retaining the IPL title, scoring 464 runs and striking at over 168.

Sudharsan, meanwhile, has strengthened his credentials with a remarkable IPL season for Gujarat Titans. The stylish left-hander accumulated 722 runs in 17 matches, including a century and eight half-centuries, while also impressing in domestic cricket for Tamil Nadu. Addressing the media, Ten Doeschate acknowledged that frequent changes at No. 3 had not helped India's batting stability and stressed the need for continuity.

QUICK READ

## Vanguard slashes Ola Consumer valuation amid challenges

**CH NEWS,** New Delhi Ola Consumer, formerly Ola Cabs, has suffered a dramatic valuation decline after Vanguard marked down parent company ANI Technologies to just $70 million, compared with its peak valuation of $7.3 billion. The reduction reflects mounting pressu res from stronger competition in India's ride-hailing market, particularly from Rapido and Uber. During FY25, ANI Technologies reported revenue of Rs 1,171 crore, down 42 perce nt, while net losses widen ed to Rs 662.4 crore. The company also faced a cre dit rating downgrade from Moody's, which cited weak performance and liquidity concerns.

## Midcaps lead profit growth amid market volatility

**CH NEWS,** New Delhi Indian companies delivere d strong earnings growth in FY26 despite volatility in global energy markets, according to an Emkay Global Financial Services report. BSE 500 firms re-ported aggregate profit after tax growth of nearly 14 percent year-on-year in the fourth quarter, sup-ported by healthy revenue expansion and resilient balance sheets. Revenue growth for non-financial companies accelerated to 12.3 percent, while earn-ings quality remained ro-bust despite a slight moderation in EBITDA ma rgins. Nearly 59 percent of companies posted profit growth above 10 percent.

## India to operationalise three more major FTAs soon

**CH NEWS,** Mumbai Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said India is ac-celerating its global trade expansion strategy, with the Oman Free Trade Agr eement already coming into effect from June 1. He added that another two to three significant free trade agreements are ex-pected to become opera-tional over the next six months. The upcoming FTAs are aimed at strengthening India's in-ternational trade partner-ships, improving market access for domestic busi-nesses, and boosting ex-ports across key sectors. Goyal highlighted that these agreements will su pport economic growth, enhance competitive-ness, and create new op-portunities for Indian in-dustries in global markets as the country continues to deepen its engage-ment with major trading partners worldwide.

# India, South Africa renew strategic economic partnership drive

*SA Dy President Mashatile's India visit underscored efforts to expand bilateral trade, investment and strategic cooperation*

**NEW DELHI**

India and South Africa have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening economic, stra tegic and diplomatic ties following a high-level visit to New Delhi by South African Deputy President Paul Masha tile. The visit comes at a time of global economic uncertainty and reflects the growing im-portance of cooperation be-tween developing nations.

Mashatile led a senior South African delegation and held a series of meetings with top In-dian leaders. He was received by Joint Secretary for East and Southern Africa Janesh Kain and paid a courtesy call on Pre India, South Africa Renew Strategic Economic Partner-ship Drives ident Droupadi Murmu. The Deputy President also held bilateral talks with Vice President C.P. Rad-hakrishnan and External Af-fairs Minister S. Jaishankar to explore avenues for expanding trade, investment and diplo-matic engagement.

The discussions focused on enhancing collaboration in key sectors including information technology, mining, infrastruc-ture, automotive manufactur-ing, pharmaceuticals, agricul-ture and heavy machinery. In-dia has emerged as a signifi-

cant investor in South Africa, with investments estimated at around $10 billion. More than 150 Indian companies operate in the country, contributing to economic growth and job crea-tion.

Business leaders highlighted the role of the India Business Forum in promoting commer-cial partnerships. The forum supports investments exceed-ing R50 billion and provides employment to more than 22,000 South Africans. It con-tinues to serve as an important platform for fostering business cooperation and facilitating in-vestment opportunities.

A major focus of the visit was increasing cooperation in critical minerals and manufac-turing. South Africa emphasiz ed beneficiation-led investmen ts involving platinum group met als, manganese and vanadium. Opportunities in pharmaceuti-cals and renewable energy tech-nologies were also discuss ed as both countries seek to diversify and strengthen supply chains.

The two sides further ex-plored the proposed South Afri-ca–India SMME Industrial Linkage Programme, aimed at supporting small and medium enterprises through greater sup-ply-chain integration, co-pro-duction and market access. The initiative is expected to enhance industrial collaboration and cre-ate new opportunities for busi-nesses in both nations. The visit signals a renewed determi-nation by India and South Afri-ca to deepen their strategic partnership and advance mutu-ally beneficial economic devel-opment.

## ThynkTech closure leaves hundreds jobless amid probe

**NEW DELHI**

More than 700 employees of Pune-based IT firm ThynkTech India have been left jobless following the company's sud-den closure, with police arrest-ing its CEO as part of an ongo-ing investigation into alleged financial misconduct and cheating.

The company, located in Pune's Hinjewadi IT hub, re-por tedly ceased operations without prior notice, leaving employees locked out of offic-es and strugg ling to recover unpaid salaries, stipends and security deposits. The abrupt shutdown has spar ked wide-spread concern among workers and intensified scrutiny of the firm's financial practices. Ac-cording to police officials, CEO Harshal Thakre has been arrested in connection with the case.

# India steel output rises as demand remains strong

**NEW DELHI**

India's steel sector continued its upward momentum in May 2026, with crude steel pro-duction rising 2.9 per cent year-on-year to 14.21 million tonnes, reflecting sustained demand across key sectors of the economy.

According to data released by the Ministry of Steel, hot metal production increased by 2.0 per cent during the month, while pig iron output reached 0.77 million tonnes, register-ing a growth of 1.1 per cent compared to May last year.

Finished steel production recorded stronger growth,

**India's steel industry maintained steady growth in May, supported by strong demand from infrastructure, construc tion and manufacturing.**

climbing 7.7 per cent year-on-year to 13.94 million tonnes. Domestic consumption also remained robust, reaching 14.33 million tonnes in May, an increase of 9.0 per cent over the corresponding month of the previous year. The growth was largely driven by continued activity in con-struction, infrastructure devel-opment and manufacturing industries.

For the April-May period of the current financial year, crude steel production stood at 28.04 million tonnes, up 2.7 per cent from 27.30 mil-lion tonnes produced during the same period in 2025. Hot metal production also rose by 2.7 per cent, while pig iron output increased marginally to 1.50 million tonnes.

Finished steel production during April-May reached 27.36 million tonnes, marking a 6.4 per cent increase over the corresponding period last year. Consumption matched production at 27.36 million tonnes, recording an 8.7 per cent rise, highlighting strong domestic demand.

Trade figures showed steel imports at 0.69 million tonnes and exports at 0.51 million tonnes in May. Imports surged 62.5 per cent year-on-year, while exports grew 29.9 per cent. During April-May, im-ports totalled 1.37 million tonnes and exports 0.98 mil-lion tonnes, making India a net steel importer during the period.

India's total crude steel-making capacity reached ap-proximately 220 million tonnes per annum in FY2025-26, keeping the industry on course to achieve the National Steel Policy target of 300 mil-lion tonnes per annum by 2030. Capacity expansion plans gained momentum with SAIL approving the expan-sion of its Bhilai Steel Plant and JSW Steel beginning con-struction of its large integrat-ed steel project at Paradip in Odisha.

The government also high-lighted progress under the Green Steel Initiative, with 94 producers across 15 states re-ceiving green steel certificates by the end of May.

# HNWI population rises amid wealth growth

**NEW DELHI**

India's high-net-worth indi-vidual (HNWI) population increased by 3 per cent year-on-year in 2025, reaching nearly 3.9 lakh individuals, according to a report by the Capgemini Research Institute. The rise reflects steady wealth creation supported by strong economic performance and expanding investment oppor-tunities.

- India HNWI population grows three percent
- Wealth rises to $1.64 trillion
- GDP growth supports wealth expansion
- Asia-Pacific leads global wealth growth
- Equity markets drive millionaire creation

The financial wealth of In-dia's HNWIs also grew by 4.6 per cent, reaching approxi-mately $1.64 trillion. The re-port highlighted that India's economic growth remained robust, with GDP expanding by 7.6 per cent in 2025, driv-en by strength in manufactur-ing and services sectors.

Globally, wealth among high-net-worth individuals rose sharply, with Asia-Pacif-ic emerging as the fast-est-growing region. The re-gion recorded wealth growth of 10.5 per cent and popula-tion growth of 9.4 per cent, underscoring its increasing dominance in global wealth creation.

India added 11,300 new mil-lionaires during the year, while other major economies such as Japan and China saw larger ab-solute gains. Japan added 436,000 millionaires and China added 154,000, reflecting strong regional momentum in wealth expansion.

The report noted that global HNWI wealth reached a record $98.3 trillion in 2025, marking the largest annual increase since 2018. The global million-aire population also rose by nearly 2 million, reaching 25.3 million individuals.

# India leads AI gains as workers save time

**NEW DELHI**

India has emerged as one of the global leaders in workplace ar-tificial intelligence adoption, with 70 per cent of frontline AI users saving at least one full workday every week, according to a report released by Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

The findings highlight how AI tools are reshaping produc-tivity and work patterns across Indian organisations. The report noted that 96 per cent of re-spondents in India said AI has already changed skill expecta-tions at work, the highest figure among all surveyed markets.

India also recorded the high-est level of AI-driven job satisfa ction globally, with 88 per cent of frontline employees report-ing increased enjoyment and satisfaction after adopting AI tools in their daily workflows. The study suggests that AI is not only improving efficiency but also influencing employee experience in a significant way.

However, the report pointed out that most organisations are still struggling to translate AI-driven productivity gains into measurable business outcomes. Around 66 per cent of regular AI users said they receive little or no guidance on how to use the time saved for more strate-gic or high-value tasks.

- 70% save one workday weekly
- AI boosts productivity and satisfaction
- Skills expectations changing across jobs
- India leads global AI adoption
- Governance still lagging behind adoption

Globally, AI adoption among frontline workers has risen sharply by more than 20 per cent in two years, reaching 74 per cent. India and the Middle East are leading this trend, while countries such as the United States, France and Italy are lagging behind in adoption rates.

The report also found that 47 per cent of employees globally now spend more time managing and directing AI systems than performing tasks directly them-selves. Additionally, 72 per cent of respondents said skill re-quirements in their jobs have significantly changed due to AI integration.

In India, 86 per cent of front-line employees believe AI agents could perform at least half of their job functions with-in the next three years, com-pared to a global average of 52 per cent. This reflects both op-timism and concern about the future of work.

Despite rapid adoption, the report warned that governance, oversight and accountability mechanisms are still not keep-ing pace with technological de-ployment across industries. Experts stressed the need for organisations to redesign work-flows to fully unlock AI's po-tential.

*The government has expanded financial powers for defence forces, enabling faster procurement, improved operational readiness and efficiency.*

# Defence procurement powers enhanced for modernisation

**NEW DELHI**

The Centre has significantly enhanced the financial powers of the armed forces, a move aimed at accelerating defence procurement, improving oper-ational efficiency and strengthening military readi-ness. The revised framework is expected to facilitate pro-curement worth over Rs 1.25 lakh crore through the reve-nue route, aligning with cur-rent defence budget alloca-tions.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the revised Delegation of Financial Pow-ers for the Defence Services in New Delhi on Thursday. The updated structure covers procurement, medical ser-vices and works projects, while introducing measures designed to speed up deci-sion-making and project exe-cution across the military.

Under the revised norms, financial powers delegated to various authorities within the armed forces have been in-creased by up to 100 per cent and, in some cases, more than doubled. The enhancement is expected to provide field commanders with greater au-tonomy to address operational requirements and conclude contracts more quickly.

The Ministry of Defence stated that the changes would strengthen operational effec-tiveness by reducing proce-dural delays and enabling faster implementation of crit-ical projects. The move is par-ticularly significant as the armed forces continue to modernize capabilities amid evolving security challenges.

A major feature of the re-vised framework is the sub-stantial increase in financial authority for indigenization initiatives and research and development activities. These powers have been doubled to support the government's Aat-manirbhar Bharat vision in defence manufacturing and reduce dependence on foreign original equipment manufac-turers.

The government has also increased the financial ceiling for urgent operational require-ments by 100 per cent. En-hanced special financial pow-ers have been granted to Army, Air Force and Navy commanders, enabling quick-er responses to emerging op-erational needs.

In another important re-form, new provisions have been introduced to encourage joint-service procurement. Lead services will now be able to undertake purchases with higher delegated author-ity, promoting efficiency and better coordination among the three armed forces.

According to the Defence Ministry, the previous finan-cial powers framework was notified in 2021. The latest revision was considered nec-essary due to expanding force requirements, rising opera-tional expenditure and in-creased defence budget allo-cations, ensuring that procure-ment and sustenance activities keep pace with evolving mil-itary demands.

ETHANOL FUEL ROLLOUT

# *India expands E85 fuel network to promote clean mobility*

**NEW DELHI**

India is set to significantly ex-pand its ethanol-based fuel infrastructure, with plans to roll out up to 5,000 E85 fuel dispensing stations by the end of 2027, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced on Thursday.

As part of the initial phase, the government will establish around 100 E85 fuel stations across major urban corridors, including the National Capital Region, Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur. The move is aimed at encouraging the adoption of

flex-fuel vehicles and reducing dependence on conventional fossil fuels.

Speaking at the launch of the Maruti Suzuki WagonR Flex Fuel, Puri said E85, a blend containing up to 85 per cent ethanol, has been desig-nated as the mono-fuel stan-dard for flex-fuel vehicles un-der Bureau of Indian Stan-dards specifications. He added that the fuel is being promoted as one of the cleanest mobility options, even when compared with electric vehicles in cer-tain lifecycle assessments.

The expansion will be car-ried out in phases, with the nu mber of dispensing stations ex pected to rise to 500 by Decem ber 2026 before reaching 5,000 outlets by 2027. The initiative is part of India's broader strate-gy to diversify its energy sourc-es and reduce import depen-dence.

Puri highlighted the econom-ic and environmental benefits of flex-fuel adoption, stat ing that a 50 per cent shift in new vehicle sales to flex-fuel mod-els could generate significant ethanol demand. This, in turn, could increase farmer in comes by nearly Rs 12,403 crore and reduce carbon emissions by over 66 lakh metric tonnes.

The minister also empha-sised the role of farmers in In-dia's energy transition, noting that increased ethanol produc-tion would provide them with a new and sustainable income stream, effectively transform-ing them into contributors to the energy sector.

Road Transport and High-ways Minister Nitin Gadkari, who also attended the event, expressed optimism that more automobile manufacturers wou ld enter the flex-fuel segment as India accelerates its shift towards cleaner transportation solutions. The government said the E85 rollout comes at a time of volatile global crude oil prices, driven by geopoliti-cal tensions, making alterna-tive fuels an important part of India's long-term energy secu-rity strategy.

## Chey boosts AI ties ahead of Jensen visit to Seoul

**SEOUL**

South Korean business leader Chey Tae-won has intensified efforts to expand ar tificial intel-ligence collaborations with glo bal tech nology firms, as Nvidia chief executive Jensen Hu ang prepares for a high-profile visit to Seoul, according to a report.

The discussions are focu sed on strengthening partnerships in semiconductors, AI infrastruc-ture, and advanced computing, areas where NVI DIA has be-come a dominant global player and South Korean conglomer-ates are seeking deeper inte gra-tion into next-generation supply chains. Chey's push ali gns with South Korea's broader strategy to position itself as a key hub in AI semiconductor manufactur-ing, leveraging com pani es such as SK Group and Samsung to compete with global rivals in the United States and China. Nvidia's upcoming Seo ul enga gement is expected to include meetings with governme nt of-ficials and industry leaders, with discussions likely centered on AI chips, export controls, and expanding research cooperation between US and South Korean technology ecosystems.

Business City Highlights News Network

# Ratna Kumar Dismisses AA23 Shelving Rumours Indirectly

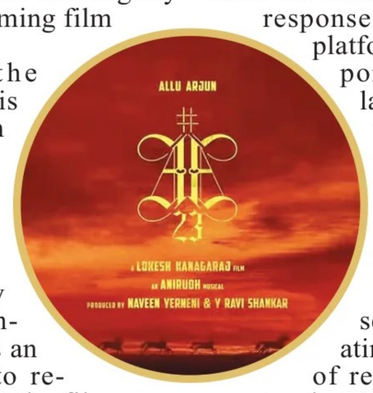
Rumours circulating on social media about the alleged cancellation of actor Allu Arjun's upcoming film with director Lokesh Kanagaraj have been indirectly dismissed by writer Ratna Kumar.

The highly anticipated project, currently being promoted under the title AA23, recently became the subject of speculation after reports claimed that the film had been put on hold due to budget-related concerns.

However, Ratna Kumar's latest social media post appears to have put those rumours to rest.

On June 3, marking four years since the release of Vikram, Ratna Kumar shared a post celebrating the milestone and reflected on the film's success. While expressing gratitude to Lokesh Kanagaraj for allowing him to be part of his projects, the writer also mentioned that he was eagerly waiting for the upcoming film with Allu Arjun.

He included the hashtag AA23 in his message, which many fans interpreted as confirmation that the project is progressing as planned.




The post quickly gained attention online and was seen as an indirect response to reports suggesting that the film had been shelved.

Fans welcomed the update, viewing it as a positive sign for one of the most awaited collaborations in Indian cinema.

The excitement surrounding the project has been high ever since its official announcement.

The theme song released to introduce the film generated a massive response across social media platforms. According to reports, more than 3.55 lakh reels were created using the theme music on Instagram, making it one of the most popular promotional tracks in recent times.

The song reportedly set a record for generating the highest number of reels for a film theme track. With fresh indications that the project remains on course, anticipation continues to grow among fans eager to see Allu Arjun and Lokesh Kanagaraj come together for the first time.

## 'Nooru Saami' Gets U/A Certificate Ahead Of Release

Director Sasi's much-awaited film Nooru Saami, starring actor and music composer Vijay Antony in the lead role, has received a U/A certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), clearing the way for its theatrical release on June 19.

The announcement was made by Vijay Antony Film Corporation through its social media platform X. The production house described the movie as a family-oriented biographical drama filled with strong emotions and confirmed that it has been certified U/A 13+. The makers also highlighted the film as a "Family Biopic."

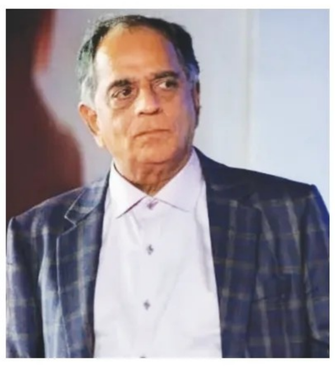
The shooting of Nooru Saami was completed in February this year. Earlier, in November 2025, Vijay Antony had shared an update from the film's sets by posting a photograph of himself sitting in a sugarcane field. At that time, he had announced that the project had entered its final schedule.

Director Sasi had earlier revealed that the film is based on real-life incidents. The movie marks another collaboration between Sasi and Vijay Antony after the success of the acclaimed film Pichaikkaran. That film, inspired by a true story, became a major hit and later achieved cult status among audiences.

According to Sasi, Nooru Saami focuses on the emotional bond between a mother and her son. Although the title comes from a popular song featured in Pichaikkaran, the director clarified that the new film is not a sequel and has a completely different storyline.

Sasi has also said that the film features two heroes. Alongside Vijay Antony, a key role will be played by Ajay Dhishan, who is making a notable appearance in the project. The director described the film as one that is especially close to his heart.

## Veteran Producer Pahlaj Nihalani Passes Away At Age 76



Veteran film producer and former chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), Pahlaj Nihalani, passed away on Thursday at the age of 76, bringing to an end a long and influential career in the Hindi film industry.

His family confirmed the news in an official statement and announced that the last rites would be conducted at the Santacruz Hindu Crematorium in Mumbai on Thursday afternoon. The family expressed gratitude for the prayers and support received during the difficult time.

Nihalani was one of Bollywood's well-known producers and played an important role in shaping commercial Hindi cinema during the 1980s and 1990s.

## Arya's 'Ananthan Kaadu' Set For June 25 Release

The makers of director Jiyen Krishnakumar's much-awaited political action thriller Ananthan Kaadu, starring Arya in the lead role, have officially announced that the film will release worldwide on June 25 this year.

Arya shared the release date teaser on his X account and confirmed that the multilingual film would arrive in theatres across the globe on June 25. The announcement has further increased excitement among fans who have been eagerly waiting for updates on the project.

Produced by Mini Studio's S Vinod Kumar, the film has a story written by Murali Gopy, who is widely known for writing the successful Malayalam films Lucifer and Empuraan.

The film has attracted attention ever since its title teaser was released.

The teaser featured powerful visuals accompanied by a poem that spoke of struggle, courage and revolution. The verses suggested the rise of a fearless leader determined to bring hope to people facing hardship and oppression.

The teaser also hinted that Arya's character leads a rebellion and refuses to bow before fate or betrayal. Through its strong imagery and emotional narration, the video

created curiosity about the story and the role played by the actor.

Ananthan Kaadu boasts an impressive cast that includes Regina Cassandra, Nikhila Vimal, Indrans and Sunil in important roles.

The film also features a strong technical team. Cinematography has been handled by S. Yuva, while music has been composed by B. Ajaneesh Loknath. Editing is by Rohit V.S. Variyath, lyrics are by Nishanth Raju, action sequences are choreographed by R. Sakthi Saravanan, and visual effects are supervised by Binoy Sadasivan. The film carries high expectations ahead of its release.

## 'Double Occupancy' Romantic Fantasy Drama Releasing On June 12

The makers of director Aswin Kandasamy's upcoming romantic fantasy drama Double Occupancy (DO) have announced that the film will release in theatres on June 12.

The film stars Santhosh, Reshma Venkatesh, Samyuktha Viswanathan and Vinoth Kishan in lead roles.

The release date was revealed by Avni Movies through its official X account. The production house described June as the month of Double Occupancy and shared its excitement ahead of the film's arrival in cinemas.

The shooting of the movie was completed in February this year. According to sources close to the film, Double Occupancy combines romance, fantasy and modern themes related to identity and self-discovery.

The makers believe the film will offer a fresh experience for Tamil cinema audiences through its unusual storyline and emotionally engaging narrative. The story reportedly explores identity, duality, science versus faith and the complexities of love. At its core, the film revolves around a unique romantic journey involving a person who appears in two different forms, creating both emotional and philosophical conflicts.

Santhosh, known for his role in Ponniyin Selvan, leads the cast alongside Reshma Venkatesh.

Vinoth Kishan, recognised for his performances in Naan Mahaan Alla and Andhaghaaram, also plays an important role. Samyuktha Viswanathan, who gained popularity after Katchi Sera, is paired opposite Santhosh and is expected to bring emotional depth to the story.

Actors VTV Ganesh and Bagavathi Perumal are also part of the cast.

The film marks Aswin Kandasamy's directorial debut. Cinematography is by Santhakumar Chakravarthy, music is composed by Sam CS, editing is by Praveen Antony, production design by Senthil Raghavan, and costumes by Sruthi R. Kannan.

## Anaswara Joins Chiranjeevi's Film in Daughter Role

Actress Anaswara Rajan has been cast as the daughter of veteran star Chiranjeevi in director Bobby Kolli's upcoming commercial entertainer. The project marks the first time Anaswara will share screen space with the Telugu megastar.

Speaking about the casting decision, Bobby Kolli said the team wanted an actress who could bring both innocence and emotional depth to the role. According to the director, Anaswara was the ideal choice because the character closely matches her age and personality. He explained that the role demanded someone capable of balancing youthful innocence with emotional strength. The filmmaker expressed confidence that Anaswara would bring honesty, warmth and natural charm to the character. He also said he was eager to watch her scenes alongside Chiranjeevi.

## 'IRUMUDI' Glimpse Highlights Father-Daughter Bond and Intense Action

The makers of Irumudi, the upcoming film starring Ravi Teja and directed by Shiva Nirvana, have released a new glimpse titled The Heart of Irumudi, offering audiences a look at the emotional and action-packed story at the centre of the film.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film is currently being shot in Hyderabad. The newly released glimpse focuses on the touching relationship between a father and his daughter, presenting Ravi Teja in a role that is different from the mass-action characters he is usually known for.

The teaser introduces a simple man whose life revolves around his daughter. Her happiness and well-being appear to guide every decision he makes. Through a series of heartfelt moments, the makers establish a strong emotional connection between the two characters, making their bond relatable and engaging.

One of the key highlights of the glimpse is the transformation of Ravi Teja's character after he undertakes Ayyappa Deeksha. Rather than showing it as a dramatic act, the film presents it as an expression of devotion and love inspired by his daughter. This emotional angle adds depth to the narrative and sets the film apart from a typical commercial entertainer.

The glimpse also reveals a softer and more restrained side of Ravi Teja. While the actor steps away from his usual larger-than-life style, the film still includes powerful action sequences that are expected to appeal to his fans.

The visuals, captured by cinematographer Vishnu Sarma, effectively showcase both the spiritual and emotional aspects of the story.

## Hina Khan Reacts Strongly To Shilpa Shinde Controversy

Actress Hina Khan has reacted strongly to the controversy surrounding Shilpa Shinde's recent remarks about the sexual harassment allegations she had made nearly a decade ago against television producer Sanjay Kohli.

The issue gained attention after Shilpa, during a conversation with comedians Bharti Singh and Haarsh Limbachiyaa, reportedly admitted that the allegations she made in 2016 during a dispute related to the television show Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain! were not genuine. She said she felt trapped during a contractual disagreement and believed she had no other way to handle the situation.

Without directly naming Shilpa, the show or the producer, Hina Khan shared her views on social media. She stated that she generally avoids commenting on matters involving other people but felt compelled to speak because the issue was sensitive and had wider implications for society, especially for women.

Hina described the act of using one's gender to damage another person's reputation during a conflict as "absolutely shameful." She said people were justified in demanding accountability and expressed shock over the developments.

The actress also highlighted what she called the "real victim" in the controversy.

Referring indirectly to the producer, Hina said a respected professional with a family had allegedly suffered because of accusations that were later claimed to be false. She noted that such allegations could have a serious impact not only on an individual's career but also on family members and personal relationships.

The controversy has sparked widespread discussion on social media, with many users debating the impact of false accusations and the importance of addressing genuine cases of harassment through proper legal channels.

**City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd.,** No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Vihaan Media #85/J, Industrial suburb 2nd stage, Yeshwantpur Extension,Bangalore-560022, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.